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A FISHERMAN PUBLICATION

# The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

May 14th, 1981 ★ Volume 16, Number 19 ★ 16th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-CENTS

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# EDITORIAL

## WHAT ABOUT DINGELL/JOHNSON?

The words Dingell/Johson have been ringing in sport fishing circles for some time now. Because of recent moves to alter the existing structure of D/J, the program has received a lot of attention in recent months. Despite affecting everyone who buys fishing tackle and thus anyone who fishes, most Long Island anglers know little or nothing about the D/J Act.

Technically known as the "Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act," the bill was approved back on August 9, 1950. It established that a ten percent excise tax was to be collected on every imported and domestic rod, reel, lure and creel moved through all channels of distribution in the U.S. While the tax is paid directly to the Treasury Department by manufacturers and importers, the tax is passed on down the line to you, the consumer. Monies collected are earmarked to fund state projects in the areas of fisheries restoration and research, and to develop and enhance the recreational fishing of each state. Proportioned on a seventy-five to twenty-five percent basis, the Federal Government matches each dollar put up by the state for approved projects with three dollars of its own.

Apportionment to each state is governed by two factors: the amount of total land area (60%) and the number of fishing licenses sold (40%) make up the criteria by which allocations are judged. The most funding any one state can receive is five percent of the total allotment, which in 1980 amounted to $28 million. The least amount a state can receive is one percent of the total. For the fiscal year 1980, New York State was awarded $649,250. This sum was 2.3% of the monies distributed.

If you're thinking that New York, with its nearly four million recreational anglers, should be getting a larger slice of the pie, then you are absolutely right. The problem is that under the existing formula, Long Island's 2.25 million unlicensed saltwater anglers are ignored. Obviously, all of the coastal states excepting California, which has a saltwater license, are faced with the same problem.

New York's problem is unique because the funds which we do receive, are funnelled to the Division of Fish and Wildlife which caters to the needs of the State's freshwater anglers. The Division of Marine and Coastal Resources gets nothing. This injustice is not a result of the D/J formula but rather the result of an agreement made back around 1970 by then Director of Marine and Coastal Resources, David Wallace and Al Hall, former director of Division of Fish and Wildlife. For various reasons, the two agreed to allocate all P.L.-88-309 funds (Commercial Fishery Research and Development Act of 1964) to the Marine Division in exchange for all D/J money to be transferred to Fish and Wildlife. So, for the past ten years, Long Island's saltwater anglers have reaped none of the benefits of D/J which, even if split 50-50 between the two divisions, would mean additional funds of $325,000 for the marine district. Needless to say, the time to examine this ten-year-old agreement is at hand.

The current movement to expland the D/J base involves the inclusion of every conceivable item of fishing tackle to come under the ten per excise tax. This expanded base is expected to result in a thirty percent increase in D/J funds.

A proposal which is likely to meet stiff opposition from a number of fronts is that which will impose a three percent excise tax on items such as outboard motors, boats, trailers and related gear.

Long Island's saltwater majority is certainly not likely to provide much support for D/J expansion under existing circumstances. It simply would amount to nothing more than a charitable gesture towards the Division of Fish and Game which cares little about what goes on in the marine district. By making a couple of not so impossible changes, the D/J tax may be one of the answers for recreational angling funds. Next week, Bill Muller will expound on the alternatives available to us.

Fred P. Colofaro

# The Long Island FISHERMAN

*The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!*

**Volume 16, Number 19** **May 14th, 1981**


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## About the Cover—

Zac Grossman's eyes reveal the excitement of "Tournament Fever." See his article on page 34.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **BLOCK ISLAND TEASER RIG**


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Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
W.A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
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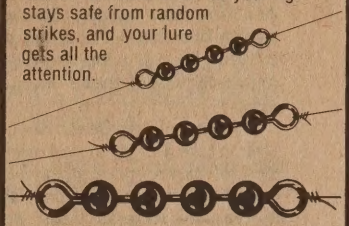

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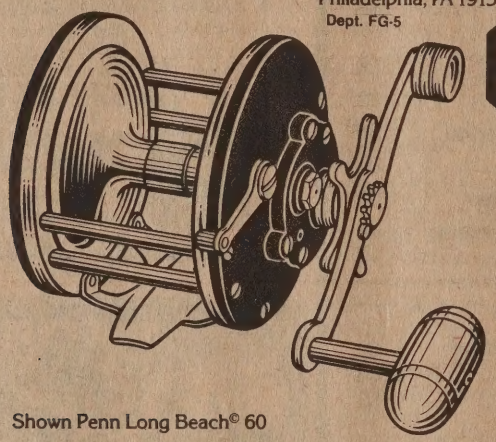

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# Pass It On...

### PROPOSED BILL WOULD ALLOW COAST GUARD TO CHARGE FOR ALL SERVICES

The U.S. Coast Guard wants to be able to recover a large part of its operating costs by charging "user fees" for its services. These include search and rescue, maintenance of aids to navigation, maintenance of safety standards, ice-breaking, pollution cleanup, and paper work (issuing of licenses, documents, certifications, etc.), and inspection of vessels including drydocking, repairs, alterations and plan approvals.

The proposed bill states that the users of the waterways are but a small segment of the general public, and as such, should pay for these services in order to reduce the tax burden on the general public. It would affect every craft from small outboard boats to ocean-going ships. The bill proposes to raise this revenue in three ways:

**1. Through "user fees," decals** to be purchased by both documented and undocumented vessels. In the decal category specific reference is made to some 8.5 million recreational vessels and approximately 31,000 fishing vessels. Fees under this section would be expected to raise $60 million in the first year of operation, and increase by some 333% to bring in an estimated $200 million by 1986.

**2. Through fees for licensing, documentation, inspection, etc.** These fees would be expected to bring in $20 million in the first year and increase by 585% to bring in $117 million by 1986.

**3. Through tonnage charges** on both foreign and domestic shipping. This would be expected to raise $40 million in the first year, and increase by 500% within 5 yrs. to produce $200 million by 1986.

The monies raised under these proposals **would not go to the Coast Guard, but would go into the U.S. Treasury.**

Although the proposed bill makes the statement that the users of the waterways constitute but a small segment of the public, the fact is that the general public benefits directly or indirectly from most of these services. The need for the Federal Government to assume the responsibility for safety of life at sea was recognized as being in the public interest all the way back in 1789 when President George Washington signed the law which incorporated lighthouses and other aids to navigation into a Federal system. And today, even if no privately owned vessel were ever to sail again, these aids to navigation would still have to be maintained for the vessels of the Navy, Army, Coast Guard and NOAA. Therefore, any

costs involved in maintaining such maritime safety service must remain an expenditure paid for through taxes by the public at large.

Ironically, under this proposed bill the general public would wind up paying more in the long run for such services in the form of higher prices. After all, tonnage charges would simply be passed along, another example of government fueling the inflation.

As you will agree, the bulk of Coast Guard services benefits the public at large as well as the millions of persons who sail on the navigable waters of the U.S. Every one of us is paying for benefits to limited segments: subsidies to a handful of tobacco farmers to the tune of $200 million a year; and for agricultural subsidies amounting to some $1.4 BILLION, virtually the same amount as the entire Coast Guard operating budget. That's why we get so bent out of shape when they want to go after us to collect for such things as aids to navigation and search and rescue.

One of the worst ideas proposed in this bill is not only to charge for mandatory inspections, but to have the inspector collect an inspection fee ON THE SPOT. So far, Coast Guard inspectors have not been looking for any payoffs, but this proposal would be to plant the seeds of corruption. Inasmuch as vessel inspection, as far as our "T" boats are concerned, is for the public's safety, we are opposed to any charge for this.

With the way the tide is running in Washington, we doubt that the entire package can be shot down, but if we don't make ourselves heard, they'll ram the entire thing down our throats. I will be speaking on our behalf before the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Navigation in Washington, on May 19, 1981.

**Please do your part and contact your state's Congressman** on the Coast Guard and Navigation Subcommittee. Tell them why you are against this bill. If you do not have a representative from your own state sitting on this committee, then address your comments to the Chairman.

The more letters, calls, telegrams, etc., that we can generate to these Congressmen, the better chance we'll have of knocking a lot of the proposals out of the bill.

**Subcommittee on Coast Guard & Navigation,** Room H2-545, House Office Bldg., Annex No. 2, Washington, D.C.

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12:30 P.M. at Cameroto's Boatyard, 10 Pennyfield Ave., Bronx, N.Y.
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2 P.M. at Security Auto Sales, 345 Merrick Rd., Amityville, L.I., N.Y.
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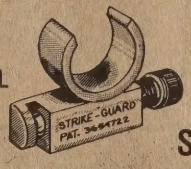


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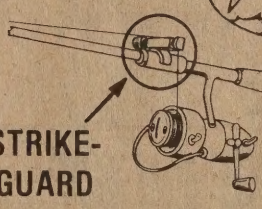

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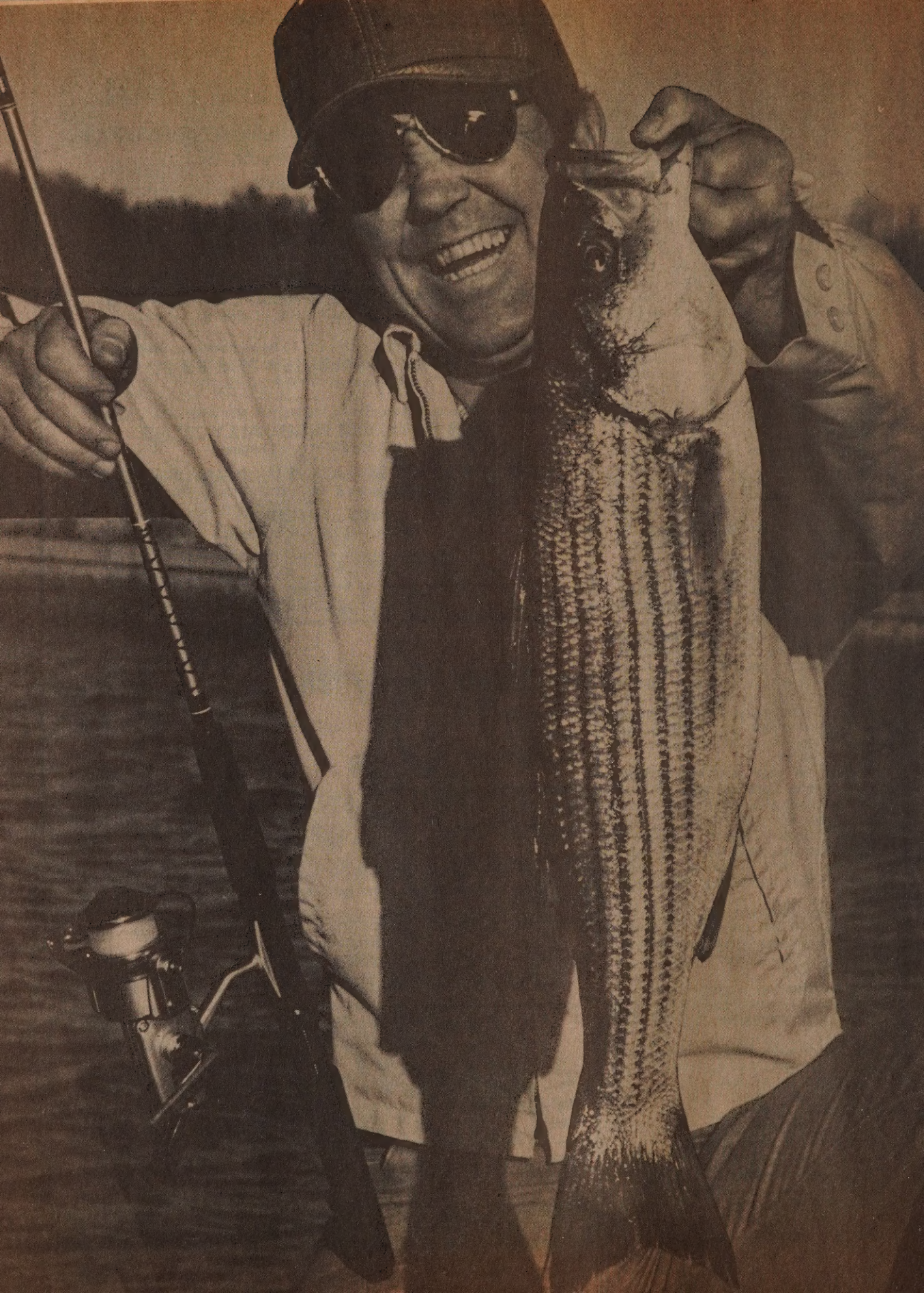

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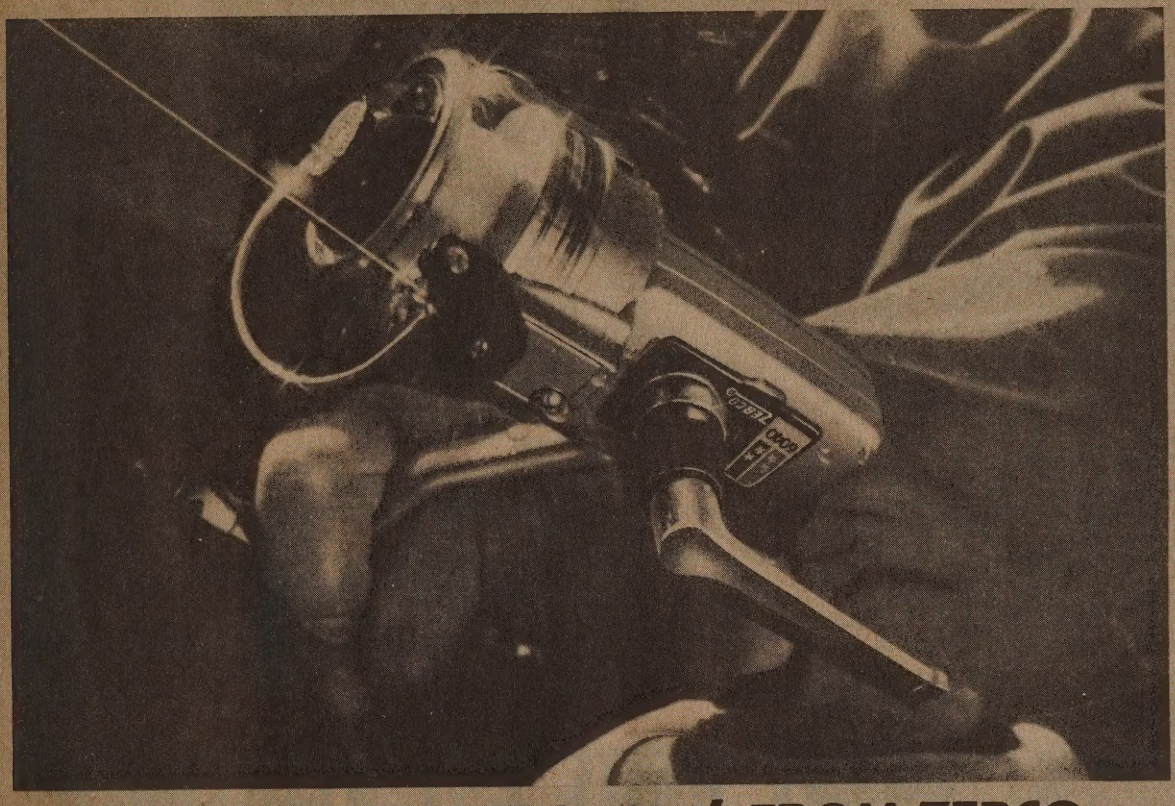

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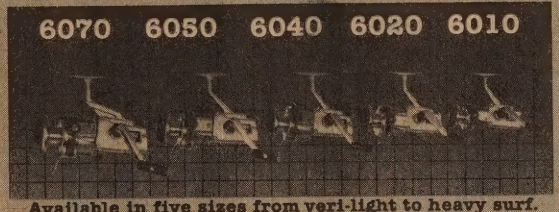


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### SOME NEW THINGS FOR '81

Being a sales rep I sometimes get the opportunity to field test some items before they are introduced into the marketplace. This past season I found three items that are worth investigation.

My favorite pastime, of course, is throwing plugs to stripers, so finding some new plugs that work is always a plus. Freshwater fishermen may be familiar with the name, but this season the saltwater angler will be introduced to the Nils Master from Finland. In appearance they resemble the Rapala, Rebel and RedFin; but there is one major difference: the weight. The 4¾" model in both jointed and straight weighs one ounce and their 6¾" model weighs one-and-a-quarter ounces. Being a surf-caster, I found the added weight invaluable for that extra couple of yards. Also the added weight in the smaller models help the plugs to remain stable in the strongest rips.

The plug is made of hard wood with wire through construction and is armed with Mustad trebles. The most important thing, of course, is the action—they took fish for me.

How many times have you reached for your sportsman's tool to cut a leader or remove a hook from the toothy mouth of a bluefish only to find that they had rusted closed. You forgot to wash and lubricate them after your last trip.

The G96 people have solved this problem by creating a long overdue 100% rustproof tool. The cutting blades are made of surgical steel that has been hardened to a 59 on the Rockwell scale and can cut through the heaviest gauge wire. Another unique feature of the tool is that its parallel jaws serve equally as well as a crimping tool for sinkers and sleeves.

With the price of fishing tackle going up and in many cases, the quality going down, it is nice to report that a new line of moderately priced quality rods is available at local tackle shops. They are called Kwik Stix.

The rods range in action from the five foot ultra-lite Professional series to a ten foot surf Tournament series. They are well designed with glass to glass ferrules and genuine Fuji ceramic guides. The grips are of lightweight sponge rubber. Unlike E.V.A. grips, they will not discolor or lose their shape nor will the coloring dye come off on your hands.

One of the stars of the Tournament saltwater spinning series is the model 671 seven foot, heavy action party boat bluefishing and bunker snagging model. It comes with a heavy duty chrome on brass reel seat. The other spinning rods in the series utilize the lightweight corrosive resistant aluminum oxide seats. All of the saltwater series have medium to heavy action tips—just the ticket for us East Coast fisherfolk.

The Classic series 1720 six-and-a-half foot medium action and the Magnum series 1920 six-and-a-half foot medium and 1925 seven foot medium-light action rods are ideally suited for weakfish.

The boat rod series are built for heavy duty work. All have chrome on brass real seats and Fuji guides. The series features a six foot model 661 medium-heavy jigging stick.

The Kwik Stix puts a good quality rod in the hands of the average fisherman or fisherwoman without the heavy price tag. **Dave Curti.**

### TAKE ME FISHING—1981

The theme for the National Fishing Week May 11-17, 1981 "Take a Kid Fishing." This week is designed for persons interested in the sport to pass the joy of fishing on to the youth of America. For the second consecutive year, the Lower Bay Anglers Fishing Club will volunteer to organize the "Take Me Fishing" triop. Jameson Smoke Shop and the Loewr Bay Anglers know that fishing is fun and have joined together to take 100 kids on a fishing trip. Financial sponsoring will be done by Jameson Smoke Shop, whereas the formally organized Lower Bay Anglers, as a club effort, will chaperone the outing.

The fishing day will take place on


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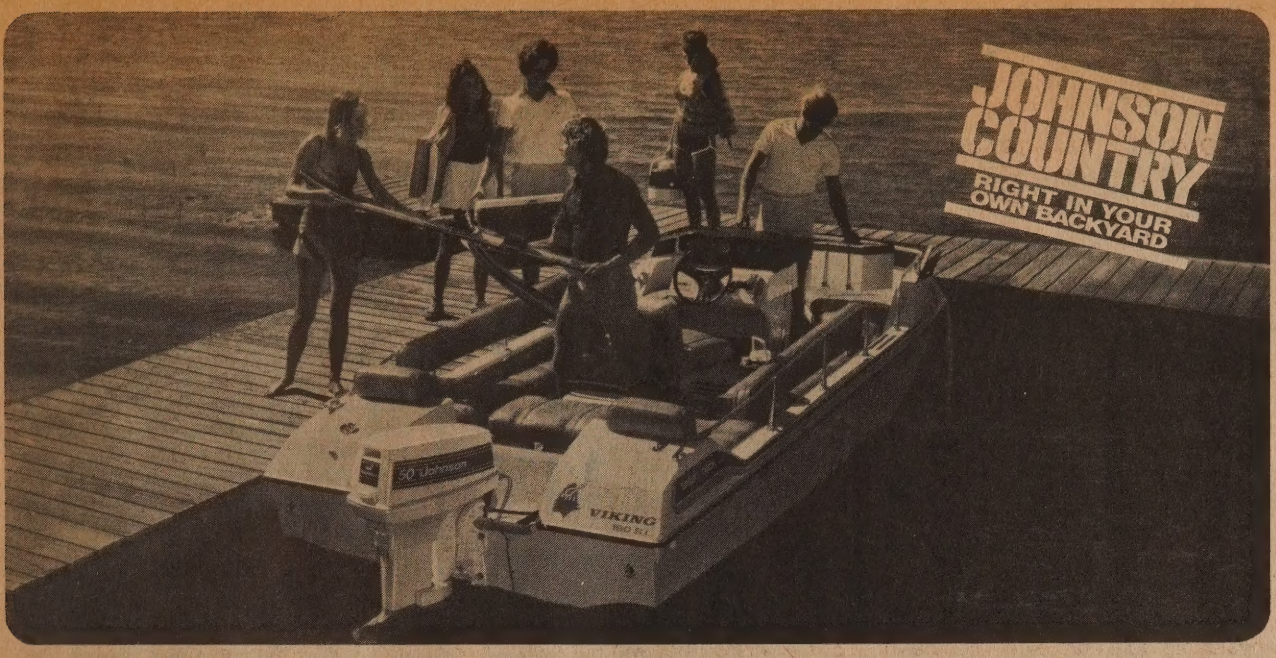


# Johnson mid-range outboards...power that breezes past the pumps.

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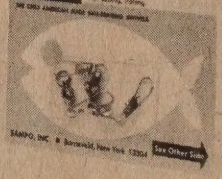


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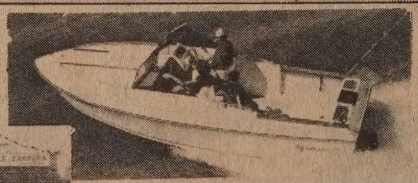

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the 69th St. Pier (at Shore Road and Bay Ridge Ave.) from 8AM to 1PM for flounders. The first 100 children from 8 to 14 years of age who are registered will be participants. Registration is simple, although it must be done by a parent or guardian, by signing a release form supplied at Jameson Smoke Shop, 6824 4th Ave. (corner of Bay Ridge Ave. & 4th Ave.), during the week of May 9-15, 1981 between the hours of 10AM and 11PM. On the day of the outing, a safety-pinned tag with "Take Me Fishing—1981" will be given to the child. The tag is not transferable, it will entitle him/her to a free bologna sandwich with soda, hook, sinker, bait and how-to demonstration and talks by some of the best fishermen in the area. Any children who do not have a fishing rod and reel will be supplied with a drop line. Tag and fishing tackle may be kept by children. Parents and guardians are welcome (bring your own lunch) to come. If you have any questions, please call 238-2636 between the hours of 7PM and 11PM. This is a nice opportunity to have family and community get-together to share knowledge of a fine sport, and appreciation of the great out-of-doors, and respect for our country's natural resources, not to mention that fillet of flounder is a very tasty dish.

### RECYCLING DRIVE

The monthly recycling drive co-sponsored by the Marine Environmental Council (MECLI) and the Long Island Environmental Council (LIEC) will be held Saturday, May 16, from 10AM to 4PM at the Pathmark parking field on Merrick Road in Seaford, rain or shine. Volunteers unload cars. Look for the Ecology flag.

Materials collected include newspapers (tied or untied), magazines, aluminum (any shape), and car batteries.

### GREAT SO. BAY ANGLERS

Members and guests of the Great South Bay Anglers kicked off the 1981 season recently with their annual Awards Dinner Dance. The affair was held at Sunland On The Bay in Blue Point and a great time was had by all who attended. Among the many award winners were:

Bill Bowman—1st pl., weakfish
Richie Schroeder—1st pl., bluefish
Fred Golofaro—1st pl., striped bass
Joe Chlanda—1st pl., fluke

Junior anglers receiving prizes included Bruce and Scott Papa, Paul Murray and Maryanne Solinas, Muriel Chlanda, Barbara Solinas and Marie Hollins were winners in the Women's division.

For the first time in three years, the Great South Bay Anglers Club will have open membership. The Club, which finished second in the New York Surf Fishing contest last year, is made up primarily of surfcasters and small craft anglers. Meetings are held at 8PM on the fourth Wednesday of

# Start lifting more fish and less rod. Fenwick Fenglass™ Pacificstiks.™

Fenwick recently introduced a new 2-rod series called Pacificstiks, offering niversal actions in a unique new esign. The response to nese rods has been emendous. From the tlantic to the Pacific to the Gulf Coast, fishermen verywhere are enjoying acificstiks. Although riginally designed for the Vest Coast fisherman, the erformance and actions of nese rods have quickly nade them a favorite of all altwater fishermen.

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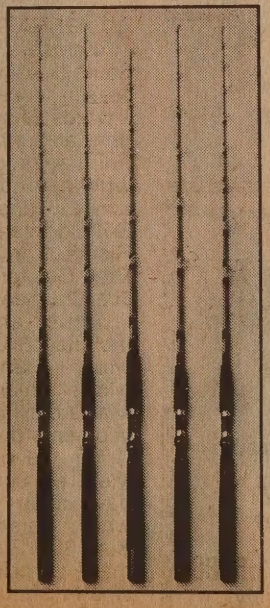

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Fenglass itself is much stronger than traditional fiberglass material. Even with their exceptionally light weight, Fenwick's Pacificstiks are the most powerful rods made today. For sheer brute strength, no other rods can outperform them.

*Pictured at left: Five of the twelve Fenglass Pacificstiks . . . both casting and spinning models with a power and an action for every saltwater fisherman's needs.*

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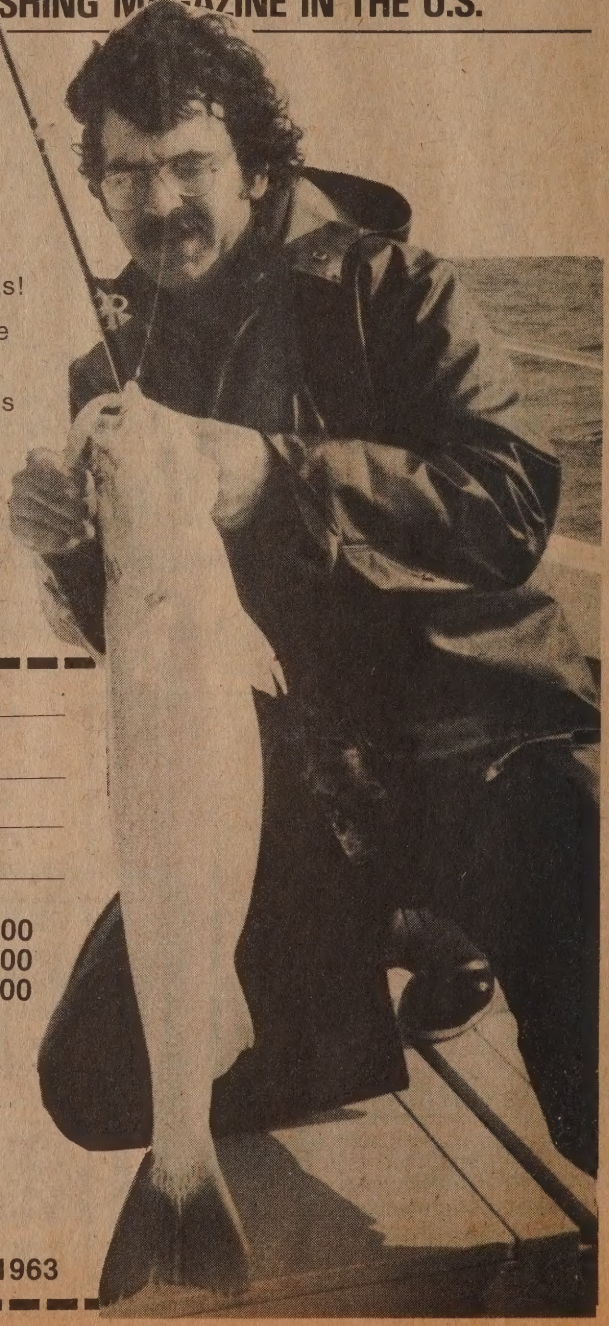

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each month at the Islip Town Recreationa Center on Smithtown Avenue in Bohemia. Food is served and a film is shown at each meeting. Included among the club activities are trips to Quincy and Cape Cod. Anyone interested in attending the next meeting can contact Marty Beer at P.O.Box 80, W. Sayville, N.Y. 11796.

### L.I.'s DRINKING WATER CRISIS

A public program on the crisis regarding the fresh water supply of Long Island will be held on Wednesday, May 27th, 7:30 p.m., at the Salisbury Club House (19th hole meeting room), Eisenhower Park, East Meadow.

Three well-informed Long Islanders—Sarah Meyland, Julian Kane and Walter Hang—will discuss the latest happenings on this critical problem. The public is invited to attend and become informed on a subject that is having a serious impact upon our quality of life.

The program is sponsored by the Nassau Chapter of the Long Island Environmental Council. For further information, call (516) SU 5-3139 (evenings).

### LIBBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

There will be a Long Island Beach Buggy Association Board of Directors meeting at Bondi's Tavern, Montauk Highway in Patchogue on May 14 at 8PM. Anyone interested in the functions of this organization may attend.

### FULLY AUTOMATIC LORAN C RECEIVER MAKES PRECISION NAVIGATION SIMPLE & EASY

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# NATIONAL SCENE

# LOU FIGURELLI HONORED

## *by Al Ristori*

At its recent meeting in Houston, Lou Figurelli was honored by the National Coalition for Marine Conservation (NCMC) with that organization's Golden Swordfish Award in appreciation of his "diligent and selfless service" to the cause of ocean game fish conservation. According to NCMC President Frank Carlton, "Lou Figurelli has earned this award for his extraordinary personal commitment and seemingly inexhaustible energy in last year's campaign to amend the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (200-Mile Limit) to include Atlantic bluefin tuna. Though the effort fell just short, the stage is set for likely success this year, thanks in large part to the work of Lou Figurelli."

Lou and his Natural Resources Protective Association of Staten Island, Inc. haven't let up a bit in the continual fight to preserve our environment and marine resources. Hopefully, most readers read the full page petition in the April 23 issue which Lou placed in opposition to the proposed power plant on Arthur Kill which would discharge 29,000,000 gallons of heated, chlorinated water that would find its way into the prolific fishing grounds of Raritan Bay. Lou, who was successful in getting the bunker boats banned from Staten Island waters, is also hot on the trail of a demonstration project designed to see if the forty to sixty foot deep pits dug many years ago in the West Bank area of New York Harbor for landfill can be re-filled with contaminated wastes and capped with clean sand.

Perhaps, in the long run, Lou's most important accomplishment has been to urge the new Staten Island Congressman, Guy Molinari, to take a seat on the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. The previous Congressman from Staten Island, John Murphy, was chairman of that committee before being caught up in the Abscam scandal and losing to Republican Molinari last November. Congressman Molinari is way down on the seniority list and it will be a long time before he has a great deal of influence on the committee. However, he seems to have a good grasp of the issues involved and a much firmer commitment to the marine environment and fisheries than Murphy ever exhibited.

### WCBS Fishing Reports

Your reporter has started his fourth season with the weekend program "Report on Fishing" on WCBS-AM, New York (88 on the AM dial). Up-to-the-minute fishing information is provided every Friday evening, while Saturday and Sunday morning programs feature a mixture of additional current info plus special features. The approximate time schedule is as follows: Friday: 5:24 p.m., 8:49 p.m., and 10:24 p.m. (same program in each case). Saturday: 5:26 a.m., 6:48 a.m., and 8:21 a.m. Sunday: 5:24 a.m., 6:48 a.m., and 8:24 a.m.

WCBS-AM ("All News 88") is a powerful station that usually comes in clearly all the way from Cape May to Cape Cod, 24 hours a day.

### Everglades National Park Needs Protection

I recently received an alert from Woodmere attorney and expert angler, Marty Topal, that the arrangement for phasing out commercial fishing in Everglades National Park, Florida is in danger. As previously reported, the Department of the Interior finally responded to the pleas of sportsmen and guides last year and worked out a system whereby angling catches were to be limited and all commercial fishing phased out by 1985. Now Interior seems to be wavering on the latter provision.

At one time the Everglades provided some of the best fishing to be found in Florida. Snook, redfish (channel bass), sea trout, mangrove snappers, tarpon, ladyfish, and many other species were very abundant—and the shallow waters were ideal for light tackle fishing. Unfortunately, the twin effects of water diversion and overfishing have resulted in a current fishery that can only be described as spotty. Worst of all, the most popular sport and food fish (snook and redfish) have become almost scarce in these waters.

Last year's agreement provided some hope that this once great fishery could be nursed back to life over the years. However, the commercial interests involved have fought on—and the threat of lawsuits has apparently swayed some bureaucrats in Interior. Rather than phasing out commercial fishing by December 31, 1985, consideration is being given to allowing all present commercial fishermen lifetime permits. That, of course, would negate the limits placed on sport fishermen. Bill Pate, chairman of the Everglades Protection Assn., is not only dead set against the lifetime commercial permits, but wants all commercial fishing ended this year.

You can help "stiffen some backs" in Interior by writing to James Watt, Secretary, Dept. of the Interior, C St., Washington, D.C. and to Mr. G. Ray Arnett, Acting Asst. Sec. for Fish, Wildlife & Parks at the same address. Also get in touch with your Congressman and Senators. Why go to bat for an area that you may never have fished before, and may never get to? The reason is simple. The nation's sport fishermen must learn the importance of standing together on issues that involve the Federal Government. As Benjamin Franklin is supposed to have said, "If we don't all hang together, we'll all hang separately!"

### Scientific Anglers Offers Release Citations

Fly fishermen who release trophy-sized game fish of any type are now eligible for a special pin, certificate and membership in Scientific Anglers/3M's Trophy Release Club. To qualify, anglers should include in a letter the species of fish, estimated or actual length or weight, where and when released, rod, line and reel description and a photo, if possible, plus name, address and zip code, along with $2.50 to cover handling. Applications should go to Trophy Release Club, Scientific Anglers/3M, 223-2S, 3M Center, St. Paul, MN 55144.

### Outdoor Life TV Series Looks Good

Having been involved in several shorts and one TV show, I'm a little sceptical about the way these films are shot—and even more so about the way they are edited. Almost invariably, they're spliced together by people who know no more about fishing than I do about knitting—and real fishermen alternately laugh and cringe as they watch the show. The use of a "celebrity" from outside of the fishing world is another pretty sure sign that a show is being directed to non-fishermen. However, I was pleasantly surprised when I saw the new "Outdoor Life" TV show a few weeks ago.

That first show was filmed at Walker's Cay aboard owner Bob Alplenalp's sportfisherman "Sea Lion." I got very defensive at first

(Continued on page 56.)

# BOATING TIPS

# GOING IT ALONE

## *by Bob Whittier*

We usually think of fishing trips in terms of two, three or more fellows going out together. Half the fun is in the fishing; the other half in enjoying one another's company.

But there are also times when one will go out alone, for assorted reasons. If the word goes around that the fish are biting, and one's pals are all at work or away from home, you're not going to miss some fun, so you go out by yourself. Or, the tide is favorable when you get home from work, you've got a couple of hours of daylight left, and there isn't time to get together a group. So again, you head out by yourself.

And there are those times when you just feel like being alone. Away from the telephone, the kids, the uproar at the shop or whatever, not just to fish but also to sit and think things over.

Most of the time, going out alone in a small boat is as safe as driving a car alone. Considering the traffic on some expressways, amend that to read—safer!

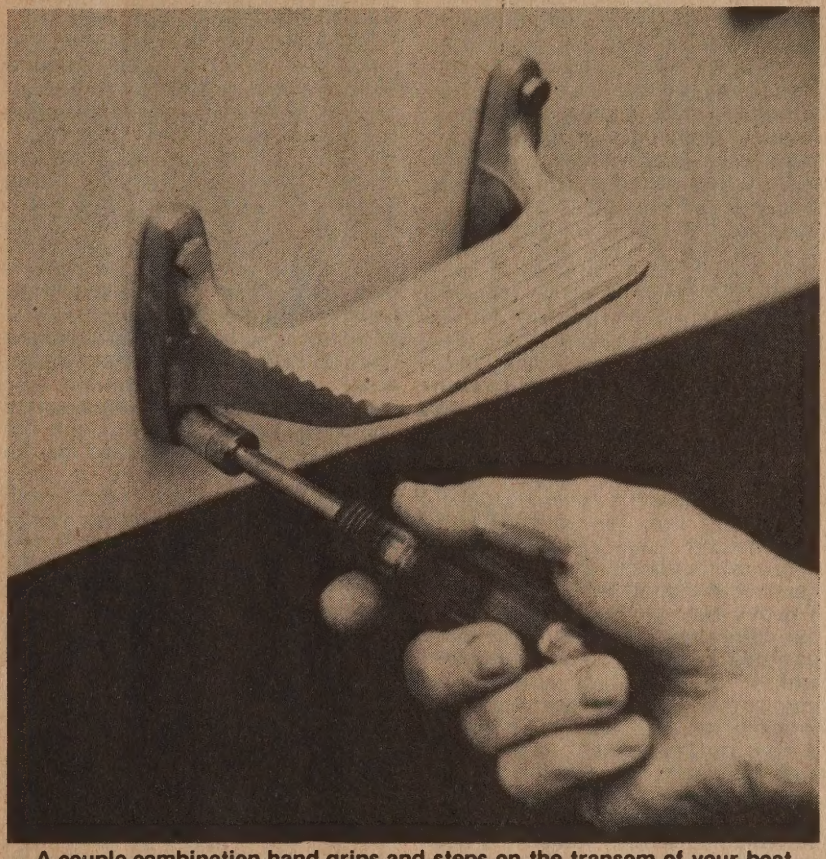
But every single-hander should keep in fact that going out alone poses its own set of conditions, which one must take proper measures to meet.

If you fall overboard when there's another fellow in the boat, he can throw you a life preserver, stick a boat hook your way, reach a helping hand overboard, help pull you aboard again, start and maneuver the boat if necessary. None of these helps will be available if you go over while alone!

Suppose the boat is anchored and some current is flowing. Then you're going to be carried away from the boat. Or, suppose you are drift-fishing and somehow topple over the gunnel. Then only your head will be exposed to any breeze that may be blowing, while at the same time it will push on the much larger surface presented by the sides of your boat. You will then be left treading water while the boat moves farther and farther away.

You get the idea. Falling out of a boat when you're out alone can be a damned serious business.

Borrow the Boy Scouts' motto, "Be Prepared." Perhaps the first thing to do is to take a close look at your boat from the point of view of climbing back into it without help from anyone else. Marine stores sell a variety of things that will help, ranging from simple castings that are combination steps and hand-holds, to fold-up boarding ladders and platforms.



**A couple combination hand grips and steps on the transom of your boat can be life savers.**

Some day when you're out swimming, try actually climbing into your boat and see how easily you can do it. Don't be surprised if it turns out to be much harder than you imagined it would! One or even two hand-holds on the transom are no guarantee it will be an easy trick to pull. As more of your body and legs come out of the water, your arms and hands will have more work to do. You can climb halfway board, then find that there's nothing to grab inside the slop well to continue the pulling job. In attempting to climb aboard when swimming, you may discover that another hand-hold located somewhere in or around the slop well will make all the difference in the world.

If you go out alone habitually, it could be cheap life insurance to tow perhaps twenty or thirty feet of polyethylene rope behind your boat at all times. It'll float, and won't tangle your propeller. Its drag won't affect the boat's performance. Some day, it could keep you from drifting away from the boat, or vice versa.

When you plan to go out alone, tell the folks at home where you plan to go, and when to expect you back. Also tell a reliable person at the marina or bait shop. It is even a sensible thing to leave a note under the windshield wiper of your car. People called out to look for you might not get the details straight from an excited, worried member of your household who has called local authorities to look for you. You can tell your wife you're going out around Penikese Island or Succonesset Shoal—but will she remember those unfamiliar names and pass them along to the harbor master or Coast Guard in understandable form?

Finally, shop around at well-stocked marine stores. On the market are comfortable, good-looking sports jackets that have built-in flotation. One of these can keep you comfortable—and alive!

# FISH TALK

# ODDS & ENDS

## by William A. Muller

GLENN BABBUSH of Brooklyn, New York. "I have just completed building a nine foot Lamiglass surfcasting rod and when I bend it, I sometimes hear a cracking noise. I have not used the rod yet and I am pretty sure that I wrapped the guides tight. I used several coats of varnish, but is it possible that the cracking noise is the result of the varnish cracking over the threads. When I purchased the rod, the tackle store owner cut the rod blank into two pieces for me and trimmed the tip. What's causing the noise?"

HAPPENED TO ME. It is interesting that you wrote about this problem because I had the same problem last year. I made a ten footer and I used the new epoxy coating to cover the guides. The cracking noise stopped rather quickly and it never re-appeared during the fishing season. I presume that it took a little bit for the epoxy coating to flex its shape to the bends that the rod would experience. You say that you used varnish and I, too, have used this material in years past, but I never had a noise problem with it. But, did you use marine varnish? Although I'm not sure, I can imagine that a non-marine varnish or a poor quality varnish might cause such a problem. You also say that you wrapped the guides tightly. Did you wrap them too tightly? Another possible explanation could be a poor fit of the center ferrules. Did you use ferrule cement or epoxy glue. If the ferrule cement was put on too heavily and not uniformly, it could be cracking under the ferrules. If that is the case, it will need attention before you fish because it could come apart on the cast. If the epoxy were not mixed properly, then it could be too hard and it could be cracking. Bend it with the center ferrule close to your ear. If you check out all of these possibilities and it still makes noise, then I suggest you bring the rod to the tackle store that sold you the materials and ask for their help.

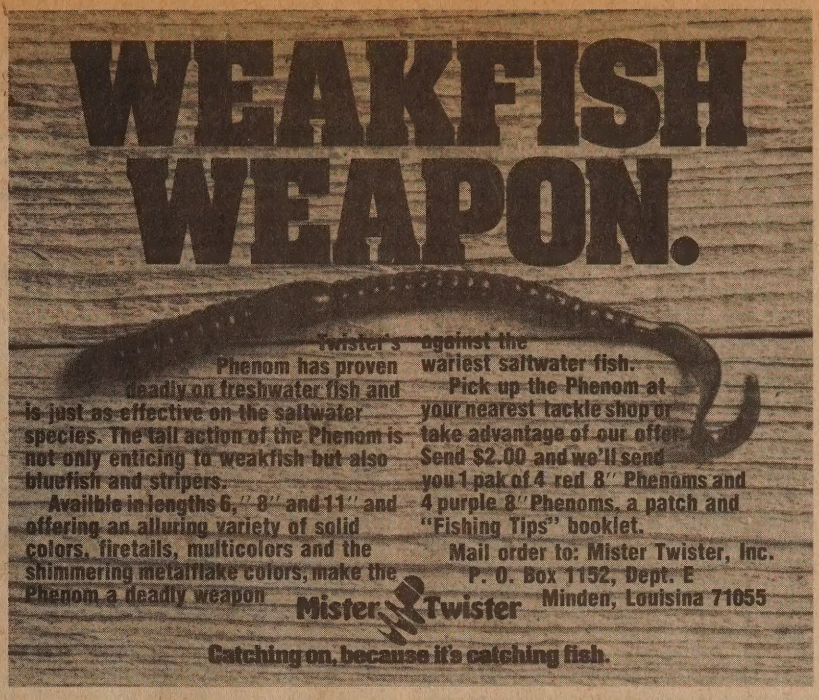
MIKE DUCHIN IN VIRGINIA! The long arm of The Long Island Fisherman has reached out to Virginia. Mike wrote a very nice follow-up to our campaign "Take A Kid Fishing." He, along with many others have told us about why they believe that taking a child fishing has considerable merit. Although each story is similar to the others, each anecdote expresses itself with some uniqueness. In Mike's case, for example, he talks about how his son Ty developed his powers of observation as he carefully observed more experienced fishermen. He also asked lots of questions—not only about fishing but about boating safety and conservation, too. Although not stated outright, Mike implied that he and his son developed a very meaningful and close relationship because of the time when they shared their fishing. Needless to say, Ty has repeatedly succeeded in outfishing his father. Don't feel bad, Mike, since that seems to be par for the course. I know my son Drew does it to me regularly, and younger Anthony is rapidly getting into the habit. Mike made it clear that he didn't feel bad and in fact, he loved every minute of it. I think the topper to Mike's letter was his retelling of Ty's reaction to a very good days's fishing for fluke and weakfish. Ty said: "Let's save some fish for next time, and go home now, okay?" He has indeed learned something about conservation and sportsmanship. We'll bet he learned a lot of it from his dad!

RICHARD ROGER, JR. Of Shirley, New York. "I am fourteen-years-old and I have a question. I am planning a fishing trip to Florida or possibly the Bahamas. If we were to go to the Bahamas, would we need passports? And secondly, could you recommend some good game fish areas in Florida and the Bahamas?" Well, Dick, you sure have an interesting problem. First, no, passports are not required in the Bahamas, but proof of U.S. citizenship is required. A birth certificate is great, but other proof is just as good. Consult your travel agent for preferences of the spots you intend to travel, too. As far as recommendations for fishing spots goes, I think that it will be hard not to catch fish in either area from what I have seen. I have always fished south during the so-called off season, which is in the dead of our winter. Every time I arrive, I get the same sad story about how if I want to fish, I should come back in April, May, or June. Obviously, the fishing will be better then, but I'm not greedy. All I have ever wanted was a little sport with toothy southern species on light tackle and I have never been disappointed.

FLORIDA. There is a lot of potential in Florida, but the best species to seek will differ from place to place. I suspect that sea trout, small blues, and small red drum might be the best prospects on the West Coast, but snook isn't out of the question. On the East Coast larger offshore game might be the better approach and for that you'll need a boat and a guide. Florida does present some problems that the Bahamas may not, mostly because of the number of people and boat traffic inshore of Florida. Boat traffic and heavy fishing pressure decrease the chances of better catches. In the Bahamas you see fewer boats and fewer fishermen. Frequently, for example, you can find a secluded beach and have it all to yourself. Casting into virgin water can bring lots of surprises and usually does. As far as recommendations go, there are many fine locations, but I would recommend one above all others simply because it is primarily a fishing resort and thus has the materials and the philosophy to make your fishing dreams come true. That place is Walker's Cay. You see ads in LIF from time to time. We were there last winter. We heard the same old tales about it being the off season. Our first day there, we went out in a small boat and cast tube lures for barracuda. We caught so many teen-sized barracuda on light tackle within a few hours that most of the crew was pleading to go in for some lunch. The next day we tried some reef fishing with bait. Again, the same warnings about poor fishing. So we anchored up and caught ten different species of fish within a few

hours. Some of those fish were pushing twenty pounds, and we all had a ball! After all that arm-wrenching action, most folks were too tired for anymore of that heavy fishing. My wife and I are gluttons, and so we began to prowl the beach. We prowled and we caught houndfish, barracuda, triggerfish, and grunts, a squirrel fish or two, and then I hooked into a permit that had to go twenty pounds. I followed it with my eyes as it took line to the horizon. We saw a school of bonefish everyday and although they never took our offering, we nonetheless enjoyed watching them cruise around. In short, in Florida I'd get some good local advice and at Walker's, I'd bring plenty of red tube lures and wire leaders, because you'll have a great time!

WILLIAM ABBES OF NEW HYDE PARK. We're not sure about the spelling of your last name because it was hard to read your script. Forgive us if we guessed wrong. Nonetheless your letter was intriguing. "I enclose an article from the Daily News. It mentions the rare sighting of a bald eagle in Connecticut and also a 200 lb. lobster. Is this report for real or is it just a misprint. How old would a 200 lb. lobster be? I enjoy your column and the rest of LIF." Well, we aren't experts on birds, but we know that bald eagles aren't common in these parts. Therefore, the sighting of a bald eagle in Connecticut of worthy of notation. We assume that the sighting was genuine since it was reported by a local bird watcher. The 200 lb. lobster is another matter. We thought that 200 lbs. sounded a little large for a lobster, so we contacted the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The folks we spoke to there agreed that although lobsters live a long life and can grow very large, that a 200 lb. lobster seemed beyond predicted and acceptable limits. The biggest lobster that the DEC people have heard about in recent years was a 45 lber. taken a few years back. They looked up a few papers on the subject while I was on the phone and they admitted that all the experts don't quite agree on longevity and size maximums in lobsters, but none of the papers suggested that 200 lbs. was possible. In theory, however, there is no limit to the age and size potential for lobsters. About eighteen months ago, a 20 lb. lobster was taken in Long Island Sound. That is a very large lobster for Long Island Sound because of the very heavy harvesting. It is estimated that that lobster was between fifteen and forty-five years of age. There is no reliable mechanisms for estimating age in lobsters. Nonetheless, most lobster experts agree that perhaps lobsters can live to be about 100 years old if they aren't eaten first. We believe that this explains the mystery. Our 200 lb. lobster was really a twenty pounder that gained a lot of weight in eighteen months.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# SINKER BOUNCING

# SEA PORGY FISHING

## *by Matt Ahern*

Ordinarily, I'm not nosey. Gossip and those who gossip turn me off. I could care less what the new neighbor down the block does for a living. I care even less about how much he earns while doing it. As I said, I'm not nosey—unless it concerns fishing.

Then, once I get the scent, I'm like a wolf on the trail of the innocent. And I don't care how involved the hardship as I track a promising bit of information to its lair. I once spent three hectic weeks on the trail of a "guaranteed codfishing hotspot," and when I finally knew for certain that I'd found it, the fish immediately became conspicuous by their absence. All of which caused my grumpy lifelong codfishing buddy Artie Leidecker to claim that, indeed, I was an unfit companion for such a grand cod-catcher as he. At least that's close enough to what was said.

But sometimes the scent is full bloom and there is little difficulty or little time spent along its trail.

As, for instance, one morning last summer when I was doing a bit of shopping in the neighborhood supermarket. As I stood before the hot dog cooler endeavoring to outwit the powers-that-be as to which brand contained less swill than the other, two portly gentlemen moved in beside me. Other than a casual glance, I didn't pay them an iota of attention—as I said: I'm not nosey. But when one of these gentlemen mentioned porgies, I instantly became alert. With unseeing eyes glued to the cooler, and with ears straining to hear above the babble of nearby shoppers, I inched closer for the kill.

But no porgy hotspot was being discussed. Instead, a debate on porgy-hooking was in progress. And from the tone of conversation, the subject had been reviewed and rehashed numerous times. "You've got to wait for at least two bites before you set the hook," one fellow insisted. "Baloney," replied the other, "you've got to hook 'em before they bite; you know that." Which, of course, was only this enlightened fellow's way of paying tribute to the rapid-fire porgy.

Now, had this discussion pertained to fish other than porgies, I would have dismissed these observations as something akin to whistling in the wind. But from personal porgy experience, I knew each fisherman's comment was correct in its own light. The good Lord knows just how often I'd used those same tactics to get our scrappy friend into the bucket.

**A typical Long Island sea porgy.**

And I've been using them a long time.

In the days when porgy fishing throughout the New York Bight was something to write home about, there was a popular fisherman's chant: "Porgies by the bushel, and porgies by the ton." And this was fact, not someone's wishful thinking of what it was hoped porgy fishing might possibly become.

I cannot recall any party boat leaving our ports that could not have reaped tons of porgies each season from the local Tin Can Grounds if its skipper so desired. And when one remembers, as I do, the superb sea porgy fishing that was also available along the New Jersey Coast, it is enough to make a dedicated fisherman cry.

On days when the fish bit hot and heavy, it took no finesse on the angler's part to fill his butter tub. But there were occasions when the porgies became tricky—just as they do today. It was then when waiting for those two bites, or, as my knowledgeable and unknown fisherman at the hot dog cooler said, "hooking 'em before they bite" was indeed the best way to fill that tub.

I've been using those two methods a long time. Since 1928.

I was only a kid then, of course, fourteen to be exact, and to me porgy fishing was something to look forward to. It was neverfail fishing for me. I'd caught so many porgies the summer before, I found difficulty giving them away to the neighbors. If those free porgies were not first cleaned, no one except dyed-in-the-wool fish lovers wanted them: the chief complaint being that it was just too much trouble to remove the scales. Needless to say, several years later at the height of the Great Depression, those very same persons who refused those porgies would gladly have accepted them if they'd been covered with the armament of a Patton tank.

Well, anyway, on this particular day I want to tell you about, I was

aboard Canarsie's Rose R II fishing the Tin Can Grounds and doing very well indeed. Get that skimmer bait on bottom and immediately would come the expected action, set the hook and reel in your porgy—or porgies (double-headers were always as common as singles). This would go on and on until either the fisherman wearied of his sport, or the skipper decided enough was enough.

But on this particular day, after the first hour or so of hectic fishing, I found my porgies becoming more and more difficult to hook. I was getting the bites, but the fish were getting the bait. I looked about me. Here and there a porgy would come up, but most fishermen were having the same difficulty—plenty of bites but no fish.

Eventually, I tired of feeding the fish with nothing to show for my efforts. I reeled in and placed my rod against the rail. What the heck, I consoled myself, at least I wasn't skunked.

"What's the trouble, kid?" the fisherman beside me asked. "Quitting already?"

"Can't hook 'em," I replied. "I don't know what happened, but I think I lost my touch."

"No you haven't," he said. "I can see you don't know much about porgies, but let me tell you, they're the screwiest fish around here. There's no guessing how they'll react from hour to hour. Now, here's what you do..."

He then advised me to reduce my rig's hook size by one number—which in this instance meant from a 1/0 Sproat to a number one. I was told to bait up with skimmer strings—and skimmer strings only. Then I was to wait for a bite and when it came, I was to sink the hook only on the second nip—not the first, or the third—but the second.

It all sounded outlandish to me, but I was willing to give it a try. And damned if it didn't work! At the start, I had difficulty controlling my reflexes, for I found myself waiting beyond the second bite, or fooling around trying to hook each fish at the first sign. But when I concentrated and lifted the rod at the second bite, I had my fish. It was easy after that.

As the years passed, I developed a porgy-catching technique which, sad to say, comes only with much porgy-fishing experience. And this was exactly what that second fisherman in the supermarket mentioned. I learned to hook my porgy before it bit. This is purely a sixth-sense reaction. I cannot explain it to you, except to say that it is a "feeling" there's a fish down there ready to pounce on the bait. You beat it to the punch, so to speak. This works particularly well on those days when you know porgies are around, but are playing hard to get. I've noticed old-time flounder fishermen have developed this technique to a high degree. But they can no more explain it than I can. Let us say it is a well-deserved reward from long association with the game and let it go at that.

I suppose no porgy-fishing article would be complete without mentioning the tackle needed to best enjoy the sport. There isn't much to know, for certainly elaborate tackle isn't required. I use a medium-weight conventional Harnell rod (seven footer) and a Penn 155 filled with at least 150 yds. of 20 lb. test monofilament. I use no hardware because porgies occasionally bite so lightly, fishermen are often unaware of their presence. And never lose sight of the bottom fisherman's adage: the less hardware, the better.

When fishing over open bottom, I tandem-tie two hooks and place them on the main line about one inch above a suitable bank sinker, employing a loop tied with a double-overhand knot. About fourteen inches above this, I tie in a third hook. You'll find that it is the largest porgies which are attracted to this high hook.

For wreck fishing, I use only the common two hook high-low rig. Again, the largest porgies will be attracted to the higher hook—plus any sea bass that may be in the area.

Porgy fishing has been improving steadily these past few years—especially out East. You owe it to yourself to try it. And I hope fishing is so good that we may again hear the chant: "Porgies by the bushel, and porgies by the ton."


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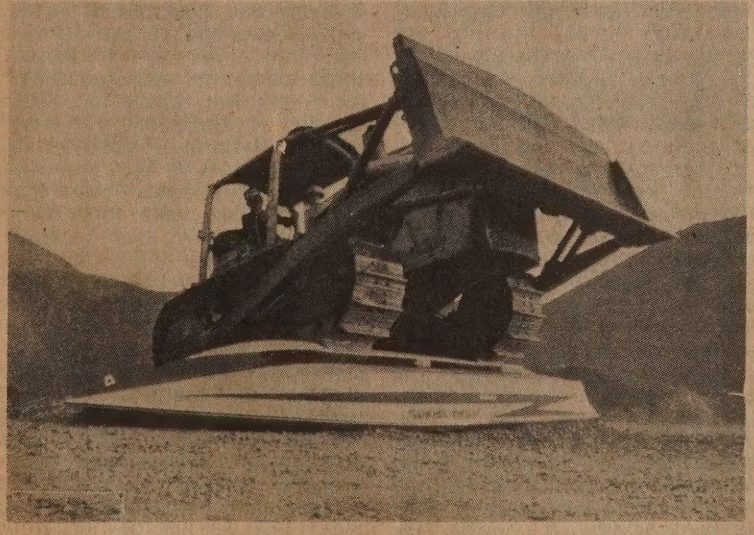

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# SURF FISHING

# FIRE ISLAND WEST

## *by John Fritz*

During the usual winter rap sessions, many aspects of sport fishing are discussed. Topics such as the choice of tackle, changing techniques and new lures comprise a major part of this discussion, but more interest is centered around planning strategy for the approaching season. Areas of previous success and missed opportunities of the past year promise to be explored more thoroughly during the months ahead. Unfortunately, Mother Nature is rarely so obliging, for chances of repeat engagements are unlikely on many occasions. One prime example of this occurred last year when the hopes of countless North Shore surfmen were dashed because the weakfish failed to make an appearance after the previous year's good action.

It can be stated that uncertainty is what makes fishing the enjoyable sport that it is, but repeated failure can definitely be a drag. Therefore, it is assuring to know that there is an area on Long Island where sustained fishing can be savored from one year to the next. This does not mean to imply that the method, species or exact locations remain identical, but within the confines of Robert Moses State Park some manner of decent fishing can be had over the better part of the season.

In the past the surf fishing in this area was initated by the influx of school bass surging up the coast from their Chesapeake wintering grounds. Tragically, this migration has dwindled to a point where very few anglers make the effort for a chance encounter with a passing striper. Nowadays it is the arrival of the weakfish which draws out the hordes of anxious surfmen during the first part of May. These spawn laden fish pour through Fire Island Inlet en route to Great South Bay where the propagation of the species takes place on the shallow flats. At this early stage of the season, most effort is concentrated inside the inlet from the tip of the Democrat Bar up to the base of the inlet bridge. This is not to say that the fish are not to be found further inside, but access to the shore line east of the bridge is more difficult to achieve. Naturally, there are locations within the former expanse of beach which are more productive than others. It is always preferable to scout any new area beforehand and make note of the most likely locations, but this practice will not continually give a true picture of what takes place at different stages of the tide or under varying wind conditions. The specific characteristics of any fishing locations are learned only after many hours of actual fishing and are still subject to change at the whim of Nature.

There are certain areas, however, that are favored by the majority of anglers using the park in their quest for these returning weakfish. The tip of the sandbar at Democrat with its swirling currents and sharply sloping edge is high on the list of most fishermen. Since this shore is subject to almost daily change, it is difficult to pinpoint exactly the best location. It can be said that the western-most tip of this bar does experience the most severe tidal surges and has produced the better results for this early fishing.

Jelly worms, bucktails, and rubber eels are regarded by many as the most productive early season lures. It should be noted that these lures must be worked at or near the bottom and leadheads of sufficient weight should be employed. The bullet-shaped leadheads or the Diamond TriFin head will sink to the bottom more readily than the flattened heads found on some Alou and TriFin products. These latter lures, though, are extremely attractive to these weakfish so the little extra effort required to work these lures properly should be tried. The practice of casting uptide at a 45° angle and allowing the lure to hit bottom before retrieving will permit the higher riding lures to reach the best producing zone. When fishing in this manner, special care should be taken to ensure that the line is kept taut. Because the lure is cast uptide and permitted to settle, the powerful currents will carry the lure back towards the angler, thereby creating a large loop in the line. The slack line should be retrieved as the lure is swept along but without interfering with its downward plunge. Once the lure is on the bottom it can be worked in a slow drag or bounced along generating tiny puffs of sand each time it is allowed to settle back down.

While these leadheaded items are the most popular weakfish lures, surfmen using plugs will catch their share of fish. Although better results are obtained by using 4'' and 5'' versions of Rebel sinkers, the medium sized metal lipped swimmers and 7'' Rebels will take fish.

As the angler works his way eastward along the inlet shore, he will encounter areas of surging rips and calm back eddies. These are caused by obstructions hindering the natural flow of the water. The exposed breakwater, especially the eastern end, is one area that should be thoroughly explored. Likewise with the shore line to either side of the old construction pier further east. Baitfish being swept along by the powerful tidal surge are eagerly awaited by game fish lurking in the lee of these barriers.

When casting into such a rip, it is best to cover the area completely; by this I mean cast in different directions with various type lures from several positions in and around the rip. All too often the fish will lie in a localized part of the flow refusing all offerings except those properly presented.

Towards the later part of May small bluefish invade the inlet providing exhilarating action for daytime fishermen but proving to be bothersome to anglers fishing rubber at night seeking other species. If the angler chooses light tackle, satisfying sport can be enjoyed using small popping plugs or tin such as the 3/4 oz. Hopkins and Kastmaster lures. At night too many rubber lures and feathered teasers are destroyed by these toothsome creatures, therefore a change to hard plastic or a different location is necessary. Contrary to their mid-summer custom, these aggressive two to four pound choppers can appear at any time of the day although they seem to prefer the outgoing water for their most active feeding periods.

Surfmen working the park beaches can be assured that the weakfish and bluefish will provide a substantial amount of activity, what is not so certain is the cooperation of the striped bass. Frequently these prized fish are taken accidentally by anglers fishing for weaks. With the bass populations at such low levels, this is probably the best track to pursue but if an angler wishes to concentrate exclusively on bass he should disregard jelly worms and confine his efforts to using plugs with bucktails, whiptails, and eelworms a good second choice of lures. Aside from the shore line inside the inlet, the bass fisherman would be advised to expend a part of his energy fishing the jetty area.

Anglers fishing from the jetty itself

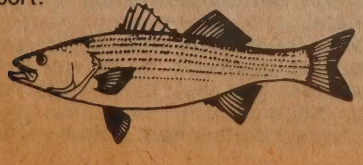
prefer the higher tidal stages for at low water the exposed lower rocks provide extremely treacherous footing. Furthermore, the depth of the water adjacent to the jetty becomes very shallow towards the end of the tide. Again, it is difficult to predict exactly what conditions will prevail in the months ahead for the bottom is forever changing in this area. What can be foretold is that an area of swirling currents will form off the tip of the jetty. Many anglers prefer to fish the southwest corner of the jetty on the top of the outward flow casting in a southwesterly direction in order to take advantage of the aforementioned rip. Unfortunately only a limited number of anglers are able to fish in this manner, but if the bar fills in to the west towards the front of the jetty, as it has done in years past, an additional number of anglers can wade alongside the rocks and be in position to reach the rip. Naturally, the surf conditions will have a direct bearing on what stage of the tide this will be possible.

There was a time in the not-too-distant past when whiting were taken in considerable numbers inside Fire Island Inlet. This early May action was possible on artificials and at that time was centered in the rip on the eastern end of the backside breakwater. In the intervening years, I have no knowledge of this incident repeating, but if memory serves me correctly this action took place after a severe winter similar to the one we are experiencing this year.

As stated previously, the bait fishing effort directed at spring bass has dwindled but in the latter part of May and early June it is possible to enjoy decent action with larger fish of this species. Bottom fishermen using mackerel chunks, sand worms, clam bellies or live eels patiently bide their time seeking cow bass until the weakfish begin their ravenous feeding on sand worms later in June.

There is one additional species which will add an extra bonus to an already ample list of surf caught fish. It is at this time when the summer populations of fluke swarm into the inlet that anglers working the backside can achieve success fishing bait on the bottom. If a more sporting method is desired, try using ultra-light tackle fishing bucktails, or eelworms along the bottom.

With access to good fishing areas being lost at an alarming pace, it is comforting to know that such a prime location exists for the enjoyment of everyone. Let us show our appreciation by obeying all the rules, for callous disregard for the few regulations and no thought of consideration for the rights of others only leads to more restrictions being placed on our sport.

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# GATHERING YOUR OWN BAIT

## by Jeff Whitaker

In these days of burgeoning inflation, the cost of a fishing trip has become prohibitive for some anglers. Many must find ways to economize or forego the joy that their favorite sport provides. The answer to saving a few bucks, if you're willing to expend some effort of your own, lies in gathering your own bait.

Mussels are just one of several shellfish that make excellent bait, and are easy and inexpensive to gather. However, to take any kind of shellfish in town-owned underwater lands, a town residency permit is needed in addition to a state digger's permit. If the underwater land is "public certified," up to two pecks a day may be taken without any permit. There is no minimum size for mussels, although it would be wise to visit your own town hall and decipher the local definition of "certified" and "uncertified" areas. Another word of caution, some states mysteriously include sea worms and crabs under the genre of shellfish, although New York does not.

There are two types of mussels common in our area, and both are familiar to anyone frequenting the coast at low tide. The edible or blue mussel and the ribbed mussels attach themselves to anything below the high tide line, including docks, pilings, rocks, vegetation and other mussels. Being as gregarious as they are, they sometimes grow so thick that they smother each other. They both vary in color from blue-black to brown, the only differences being the ribbed mussels have grooves along their shells, while blue mussels are smooth; and blue mussels are quite edible while the ribbed ones are not. Both make superb bait and chum, although they are quite soft and difficult to keep on the hook.

A simple cruise through the area at low tide is all that is needed to locate the mussel beds, and once they are found they can be picked up in bunches by hand or with a clam scratcher or pitchfork.

Another shellfish that can be picked up by hand inexpensively is the one most often sold in bait shops and is the most dependable, versatile bait around, consumed by stripers, flounder, cod, porgies, sea bass and just about anything that swims. It is known in various locales as the surf, sea, ocean, giant, hen or skimmer clam and is the largest bivalve along the Atlantic Coast, reaching a length of 7". The minimum size in New York is 3½" in diameter. This clam is quite numerous along the ocean shores of Long Island where it is found along the surf and in deeper water up to sixty feet.

One of the favorite pastimes of anglers who are experiencing "cabin fever" is to harvest these clams in the winter after a strong blow, preferably from the southerly squarter, accompanied by high tides. The next low tide after the storm they can be picked up by hand—either with their yellowish/brown shells exposed on the beach, or buried just under the sand, leaving a telltale lump. Don't wait too long though, because these clams are powerful diggers and will vanish in a day or two. The stragglers are easy prey for sea gulls, and by the second or third day all that is left are a few mangled carcasses. After a good stroll along Jones Beach one blustery winter day, if the conditions are right, you can pick up enough clams for a whole season of flounder and porgy fishing, or a couple codfishing trips. If you have a freezer and an understanding spouse, the clams can be shucked and frozen in empty milk cartons.

Other shellfish that can be used for bait are hard shell clams (quahogs) and soft shell clams (steamers), but since these are more highly prized for human consumption than the fish they would catch, they are rarely used for bait. However, there are several predators that frequent the same mud flats as the edible clam, which are easy to gather and are excellent bait. Moonsnails and whelks are quite common in our area, preferring shallow sand or mud bottoms. Moonsnails are quite infamous in some areas for their predatory nature, their small, round snail-like shells are often found wrapped around juvenile clams. They also can be picked up by hand at low tide, by looking for the shells just exposed above the sand or a bump just below the surface. The meaty part of the snail when extracted makes an excellent, tough bait for codfish, especially if there are bergalls around. Any moonsnail more than 1½" in diameter is big enough to keep.

If you're not into slogging around the mud flats on damp muggy mornings, you can build traps to augment your catch. These rectangular traps can be made either from

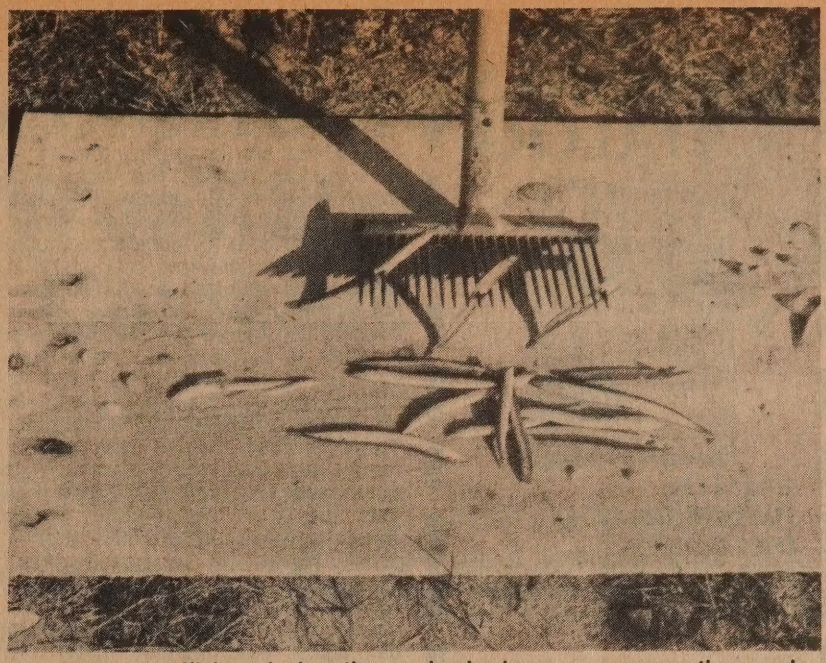
An intrepid baitfisherman sets his minnow trap in a likely looking ditch.

wood or wire, with two slanted sides and a hole in the top for the snails to enter. Wood is probably the best building material, since it provides a better suction surface for the snails. The traps can be weighted with bricks, marked with cords and floats and baited with almost any kind of dead fish. Tended several times a week, these traps can provide a steady supply of tough codfish bait, much less easily stolen than soft sea clams. The surplus snails can be kept in bags of crates in saltwater until your next fishing trip, but don't keep them out of water or in fresh water too long; they're not as hardy as clams.

Another univalve that can be picked up or potted on the same grounds as the moonsnail is the whelk. Both the channeled or knobbed varieties look like large moonsnails with tails, and can range from three to eight inches in length. They can also be gathered by wading or diving on the shallow flats, or they can be captured in the same traps used for moonsnails. They too, make excellent bait for cod, and are not easily stolen by pests. With either of these two baits you can be fairly sure that they will stay on the hook without having to reel up and check every time you feel the suspicious pecking of a bergall.

There are many species of saltwater baitfish that inundate our shores in schools of thousands, inhabiting many habitats from open ocean to brackish backwaters and ranging in size from a few inches to two pounds. But, they all are the favorite foodstuff of our predatory game fish and it is for this reason that they spend their entire harrowed existence fleeing from the larger species, whether they be hungry game fish or fishermen in search of bait.

There are several methods for capturing baitfish; the method chosen depends on the fish's size, habits and habitat. The most efficient method is to use a seine net. These nets range in size from six to 20+ feet in length and are generally four to five feet in height. The upper side is strung with small plastic floats, the bottom with lead weights. A pole is tied to either end. As the net is dragged by two people in a semi-circle toward shore, with the weighted side kept right on the bottom, baitfish are cut off and forced into the net. Low tide is the best for seining, since the fish are concentrated in a smaller area and are more easily seen. Unusual bottom structures are favored hangouts for the baitfish, such as coves, piers, inlets and bridges. The most commonly seined baitfish are the silversides, or spearing (recognized by the prominent silver band running the length of their four inch body). They make an excellent bait for fluke, snappers and others, but are next to impossible to keep alive in captivity. Fresh caught silverside, or almost any other bait, make a far superior bait than the frozen store-bought type, since thawed minnows tend to become mushy and fall off the hook.



**A nasty but efficient device, the sand eel rake gores unsuspecting sand eels with its razor sharp tines.**

Sand eels and killies can be seined also, but the sand eels have an annoying habit of burrowing into sand and under the net. Sand eels are a very desirable baitfish, since in times of glut (we are experiencing one right now) they are the staple food fish for blues, weakfish and fluke. These fish are present in huge numbers in the ocean as well as in the bays, where they prefer a sandy bottom so they can wriggle their little eel-like bodies into the bottom if danger threatens. One of the best ways I have found to locate sand eel haunts is to walk through the shallow water in bare feet, so you can feel the fish erupting through your toes when you trod on a school buried under the sand. Along the surf, they can sometimes be dug up with shovels and clam rakes in the damp sand. The best way, however, to harvest sand eels in shallow water is with a sand eel rake. This awesome device resembles a regular clam scratcher, except the tines (about 22 of them) are much sharper and closely spaced. When dragged through soft sand suspected of harboring sand eels, the baitfish will be impaled on the tines, where they can be transferred to a bucket and even used live if the wound is not too serious. The only sand eel rake on the market now that I know of is called the "Beachcomber" and retails for about $25.

The common killifish, alias hardhead, mummichog and mummie, is a drab green little fellow, abundant in all the saltwater bays and creeks in our area. He is incredibly hardy and able to survive in the most unfavorable conditions, including being on the business end of a fluke rig for long periods. They are even able to withstand the change from salt to fresh water without any adverse effects. It is for these reasons that killies are a much desired live bait for both fresh and salt water game fish. Killies can be harvested with a standard minnow seine at times, but the best and easiest way to collect them is with a wire minnow trap. These traps have two funnel shaped entrances through which the fish can enter, but are quite unable to exit. Baited with any kind of fish scrap, clams or even bread crumbs, these traps can be set in any salt marsh or mosquito control ditch that has a steady flow of water. Be sure that the trap is covered at low tide, and you will be in business. It's amazing how many killies will continually crowd into your trap tide after tide, even in the smallest, foul-smelling ditch.

If there is one bait that needs no introduction to anyone who has fished on Long Island, it is the squid. This multi-limbed mollusk is **the** staple bait of fluke and weakfishermen on the Atlantic Coast. Because it is easily obtainable at any bait store or fish market, relatively inexpensive and rarely seen in its own environment, most fishermen never give a second though to procuring their own supply. It is possible, though, if you can locate them. And there is an added bonus: bass love live squid. In general, squid can be found closer to shore at night and can be attracted to lights on piers and bridges. Sometimes, but rarely, squid can be found stranded on shore in large numbers, where they can be picked up by hand. Dip nets can be used to catch them, if they are close enough to the surface, as can treble hooks baited with small minnows. Squid grab food with their tentacles first, then bring it towards their mouth. It is for this reason that small lures with extra trebles added in front

(Continued on next page.)

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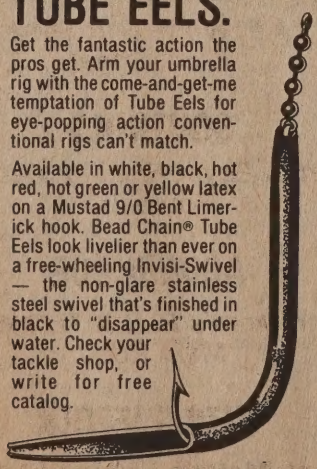

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will also work—the trebles aid in impaling the tentacles. Squid are not very hardy, so if they are to be used live, it must be immediately.

There is another class of baitfish, most of which are in the herring family, that are too large and quick to be seined or trapped, but because of their feeding habits cannot be hooked with a rod and reel. They are usually found swimming in compact schools close to shore, creating characteristic ripples and splashes on the surface, making them easy to locate. Their flesh is considered oily, stringy and inedible to humans, but game fish such as blues and stripers have no such qualms about sinking their teeth into one of those succulent beauties. These baitfish include the herring family (alewives, shad, herring and menhaden) and mullet. The one that gets the most attention in these waters is, of course, the menhaden—otherwise known as mossbunker, bunker, fatback or pogy. These flat-sided, brassy colored one to two pound fish are not typically sold in bait stores (and are best used live anyway), so the angler is on his own when it comes to procuring a supply. The most common method is to cast weighted treble hooks into the school and retrieve with wide sweeping jerks, snagging the bunkers one at a time. Or, the ambitious fisherman can purchase a cast net and catch several dozen a shot, if he's willing to pay the price (at least $40) and acquire the skill necessary to use the net. Putting it simply, the cast net is nothing more than a circular piece of mesh with thicker line spaced with lead weights along the perimeter. Lighter lines connect the weighted line at regular intervals to another heavier line, forming an apex at the center of the net. The second heavy line passes through a hole in the center of the net and attaches to the thrower's wrist. After a certain amount of practice, the thrower will be able to cast the net over a school, allow it to sink to the correct depth, then retrieve it, enveloping a slimy throng of thrashing bunkers.

If you are an avid blackfisherman or tautog-person, and don't mind a few minor bites and pinches, then you can definitely benefit by catching your own crabs for bait. Of the three types available (green, fiddler and hermit crabs), hermit crabs are the most docile and will afford you the least pain. Handled correctly, though, there is no need to ever be bitten by those ornery little arthropods. The green crab is most abundant in rocky areas, averages about 2'' in length, and as its name implies, is drab green in color. They can be caught on sight with a small dip net, enticed to dead fish on a string or captured in wire traps similar to a minnow trap, but with a larger opening. Like most crabs, they are hardy and can live for days out of water in a cool spot.

Fiddler crabs are little one inch fellows, and can be identified by the male who sports a huge menacing claw, usually on their right side. They dwell in sand or mud burrows along salt marshes, usually in large colonies. They are impossible to trap, since they're vegetarians, and must be scooped up by hand at low tide. Because of the male's ominous endowment, this can be a painful process, so it is advisable to wear gloves. Old clothes, sneakers and bug spray is also standard equipment for an afternoon of salt marsh stomping. The enterprising bait hunter can fashion a corral by nailing two boards together to form an angle. This is dropped between the crabs and their burrows, so the crabs can be herded in and scooped up. The problem with this procedure is that the fiddlers quickly learn to scoot into their burrows at the slightest hint of danger, and after your third or fourth outing, they can become very flighty indeed.

One crab that possesses none of the fiddler's agility or the green crab's ferocity is the hermit crab. They are generally very small and live in old snail shells in shallow mud flats where they can be picked up by hand quite easily. Or, they can also be attracted in larger numbers by baiting the area with dead fish, clams or other delicacies. To bring the crab out of his home at the fishing grounds, a lighted match or other heat source can be applied, or a rock can be used to crush the shell.

If you are a big bass enthusiast, and subscribe to nighttime live eel philosophy of bass fishing, then you may elect to beat the high cost of purchasing that slithery, but effective bait by trapping them yourself. Eels can be caught on rod and reel, but generally this is not a pleasant experience, since it is quite an ordeal to handle them this way. The use of eel pots or traps is much more efficient. Usually cylindrical and some three feet long, these traps resemble minnow traps but have larger openings. Baited with those all-purpose dead fish and clams (slide horseshoe crab is another popular bait), they can be set in shallow bays or tidal creeks where those slimy serpents are known to abound.

There are, of course, countless other more exotic varieties of saltwater bait that can be captured and used successfully when available, such as grass shrimp, sand bugs, smelts and butterfish. All of these tasty morsels can be caught with one or more of the methods discussed above; that is the beauty of being self-sufficient. Once you have mastered the basic bait-catching techniques, you can improvise and create new methods to adopt to your situation. And, on that inevitable occasion when you reach the fishing grounds only to discover you left your bait on the back seat of the car, you won't have to pack it up and head back to the dock. Your new-found versatility will open up many more options, and save many a fishing trip too.

# Peconic Bay Weakfish Contest

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**The Long Island FISHERMAN**

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## May 23, 1981 — 4:00AM thru May 24, 1981 — 4:00PM

### RULES:

1. DATES: Contest starts on May 23, 1981 at 4AM and runs until May 24, 1981 at 4PM.

2. BOUNDARIES: All of the waters of The Great and Little Peconic Bay and Shelter Island Sound, including all creeks and harbors, from Riverhead to the eastern tip of Shelter Island.

3. METHODS: All hook and line methods are eligible and may be used by competing anglers. These include: surf, bank & pier, private boat, party boat, charter or rented skiff. Either artificials or natural baits may be used.

4. Employees and their relatives of the following Chemical Bank branches and The Long Island Fisherman are not eligible for prizes. Sponsoring Chemical Bank branches are: Southold, Riverhead, Sag Harbor, East Hampton & Southampton.

5. Eligible entries must be weighed in at one of the official Weigh Stations. Blanks provided by weigh-in station must be filled out, signed and mailed to The Long Island Fisherman before June 1, 1981.

For adult categories, angler must be 18 years of age or older.

For junior categories, angler must be under 18 years of age.

6. ELIGIBLE SPECIES: Only weakfish caught in the Peconic Bay waters described above are eligible for prizes.

7. PRIZES:

ADULT:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | Largest Weakfish | $150.00 |
| 2nd | 2nd Largest Weakfish | 100.00 |
| 3rd | 3rd Largest Weakfish | 50.00 |
| 4th | 4th Largest Weakfish | 30.00 |
| 5th | 5th Largest Weakfish | 20.00 |
| | | $350.00 |

JUNIOR:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | Largest Weakfish | $50.00 |
| 2nd | 2nd Largest Weakfish | 40.00 |
| 3rd | 3rd Largest Weakfish | 30.00 |
| 4th | 4th Largest Weakfish | 20.00 |
| 5th | 5th Largest Weakfish | 10.00 |
| | | $150.00 |

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# SOUND OF WEAKFISH FEVER

## by William N. Herold

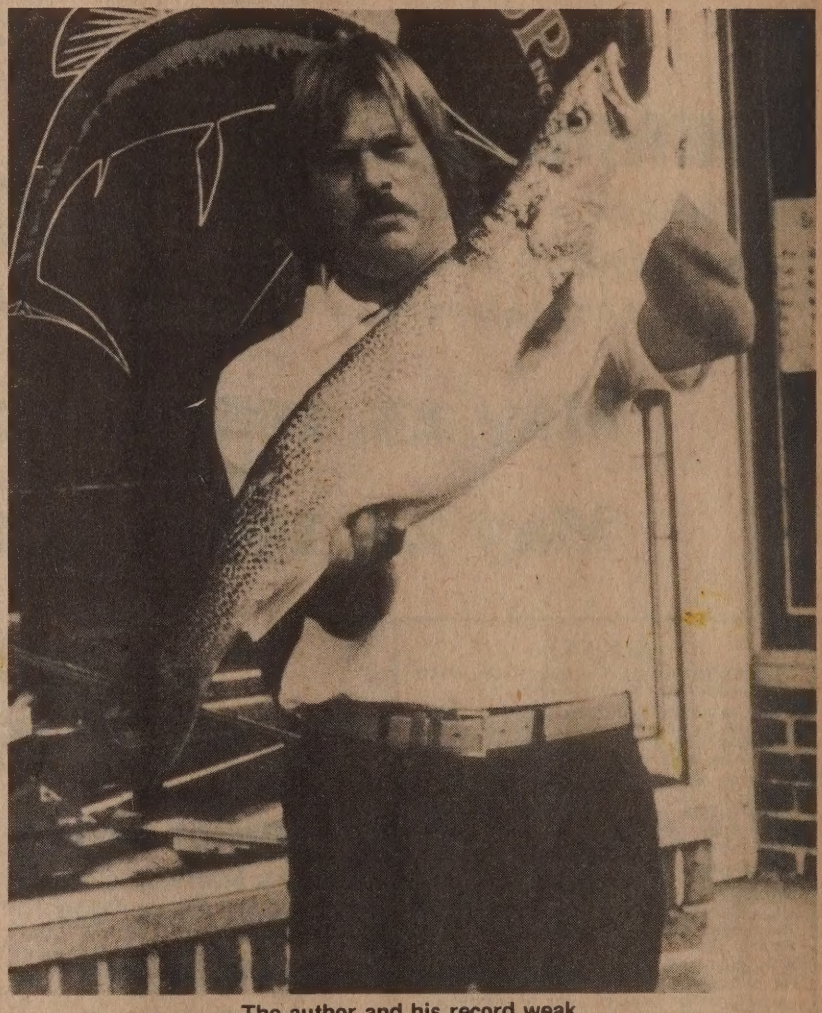
Long Island Sound equals record breaking fish. There is a situation in piscatorial mathematics that is worth studying.

**Example:** 9/29/79—24 lb. 8 oz. bluefish, caught by Erin Brown of Larchmont, N.Y.; 7/20/79—24 lb. 13 oz. bluefish, caught by Charles Toth, Jr. of Norwalk, Conn.; 7/14/80—71 lb. striped bass, caught by John Baldino of Norwalk, Conn.

The list of IGFA accredited World Class fish goes on from there with record weakfish on fly rods, as well as my own recent weakfish Record of nearly 18 lbs.; the list will surely expand with each passing season.

You certainly should be convinced of the validity of the opening equation. That expanse of brine encased between New York, Connecticut, and Long Island proper holds better than its fair share of finned adversaries just aching for their justified headlines. The fish are there; and the International Game Fish Association is ready at your beck and call. Conversations with Fred Golofaro (Editor of this publication) and Fred Luks (Outdoor Editor of the Westchester-based Gannet syndication), stirred a full appreciation of what had happened to me and the others mentioned earlier. Both men had read in the **Mariner** (the International Game Fish Association bi-monthly news release) about a record weakfish I had caught this spring; and were interested in getting some information and photographs relating to the event. Seeing as the catch was made within a good "double haul" of the main concentration of subscribers, Mr. Golofaro felt readers of The Fisherman would be interested; and it is my intent to draw a picture of my own "record experience" with regard to the weakfish season in general.

The 1980 fishing for weakfish in the New York area will probably be chronicled as a shade less productive than its 1979 counterpart, which proved nothing short of sensational. In Long Island Sound's western end it was my perception that the overall catch was down somewhat, and prompted more regular runs with my boat to eastern grounds at the extremity of Smithtown Bay. The body of weakfish off of Port Jefferson, N.Y. was far more consistent last spring than western locales; and both evening and day tides were ripe for the harvest.



**The author and his record weak.**

The evaluation of my personal weakfish neurosis is a mystery. It might have developed from constant rantings and exaltations by my brother that precipitated this love affair; but I now find myself foregoing my traditional spring bass mania and solitude in favor of a new ritual of relentlessly chasing cynoscion regalis. For whatever reason, I was fortunate enough to hook and land a specimen in excess of 17 lbs., which the International Game Fish Association has recognized as a line-class record. To be specific, the fish was caught on 6½' spinning gear with 8 lb. Ande line and a Tom Mann jelly worm. The weakfish weighed exactly 17 lbs. 14 oz. at the weigh-in, which was officially done some twelve hours after the catch was made. Due to the fish's immense size it was relegated to lay in the transom area of my boat with damp toweling its only cover from the sun; and I am convinced the trophy would have easily scaled the 18 lb. mark if it had been registered hours earlier.

I can only blame myself for that; as the weakfish on that tide were so uncharacteristically cooperative that I could never have pried myself away. We brought over 165 lbs. of tide-runners into the boat that particular day; and as it turned out, we would

duplicate that very stunt time and time again in 1980. Point here being the potential for some really outsized fish in Long Island Sound.

Weakfishing in the western end of Long Island Sound begins in May and generally slacks off towards the middle of August, with occasional flurries of activity from time to time. The squeteague season usually terminates with a smattering of bait-caught fish in the middle of September.

In early May the Peconics usually come alive with the initial influx of migratory weakfish and by the end of the month the vanguards trickle down into the Sound, and usually end up as a by-catch of the mackerel fishermen. As the water warms, a substantial body of sea trout set up shop along the more promontory rips on the north shore. The powerful tidal flows adjacent to Port Jefferson (Smithtown Bay), Eatons Neck, and Lloyd's Neck usually get plenty of attention right through July. Lloyd's provided some disappointing day trips as compared to years past, but yielded some outstanding night fishing with live worms until the end of August. August will also find pods of fish off Execution Light and Hen & Chickens in the New Rochelle area. Again, realize that these are generalities and depend largely upon bait types and their concentrations. The past three campaigns have held bonuses for those who baitfish blues in deep water during the fall at the western end of the Sound. Each September large weakfish have been caught on chunks of menhaden intended for their prime nemesis, the bluefish, which prevail annually in the late season. The methods personally used to take weakfish in the Sound are in reality quite simplistic with a wrinkle here and there. Nearly eighty-five percent of all the "squeakers" that came aboard my vessel this season fell to one of four baits (two natural and two artificial): squid strips, sand worms, metal eel jigs, or jelly worm artificials. Used separately or in combination, these four enticers will certainly rack up a respective score over a season. Virtually hundreds of other reliable ways exist which will put weakfish in the boat (i.e., bucktails, umbrellas, salty dogs, Rebels, etc., etc.); but understand this is a selective first-hand account. The jelly worms get top billing from yours truly (as a peek at my World Record application will attest), with the metal jigs a notch down the ladder. Without starting to pontificate or going into detail on the "how-tos," let me say that there is one glaring mistake most fishermen make when employing these lures. They endeavor to impart excessive action. With weakfish, go easy! Where there is any kind of a current, practice to let the jelly worms ride almost dead in the water, with little of the heave-ho gyrations prevalent on most boats. This lesson was drilled home at Peconic Bay where regulars lay rods along the gunnels of their boats, and simply drift until one or more of the jelly worm baited rods descend in an alarming bow to the strength of a large tiderunner. No casting involved—just drift and reel 'em in! Lots of weakfish stand as testimony to this method's effectiveness. Same holds true when metal is used—although one must manually impart some degree of action here. Scale it down a good deal from the squidding technique used for bluefish at Montauk; just concentrate on settling-up at any sign of resistance.

There are times when deviations from the norm are imperative. Those ten percent situations which can turn doldrums into drum rolls. Case in point is the annual explosion of "cinder worms" each new summer. These miniature worm-like creatures appear in staggering numbers usually effecting two definite and immediate responses: (a) frenzied and unparalleled weakfish feeding, and (b) torturing frustration on most boats as it is quite difficult to entice hits at these times. Combat the latter by using small, reddish twister tails on plain hooks weighted two feet above with token pieces of split shot. No bonanza here; but a far cry from going home empty. Also the flyrodder has a real heyday during this short-lived excitement. I used little more than a two inch piece of almost pinkish yarn tied directly to a small hook. Drifted some fifty to seventy-five feet behind the boat with a floating line; it got the job done.

There are certainly a multitude of other techniques equally rewarding that fishermen have developed for their own personal areas and convenience that I have not touched on. Certainly these also would serve creditably on most fronts.

Allowing for severe capsulizing, that is how I saw my season unfold with an eye towards weakfishing. The obvious discretions I'm sure are there; and that is one of the paramount reasons fishing is so much fun. I suppose you can only see it from where you sit.

Allow me to digress a moment to touch on the International Game Fish Assocation itself. No advertisement intended, this fine organization deserves each and every sport fisherman's support. Founded in 1939, the IGFA in essence, brings anglers into closer organization and focuses better attention on the problems facing individual species and the sport. Aside from the arduous job of processing all World Record data and acting as the sole distributor, the IGFA works "on all levels of government and industry for the preservation of the species and protection of their natural habitat."

All the philosophies and major objectives are too numerous to list; however, every sport fisherman should take notice of this fine organization dedicated to the care and perpetuation of his or her SPORT.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# PECONIC'S RENTAL BOAT WEAKS

by
Al Ristori

There are few types of fishing I've been doing longer than renting skiffs to fish for weakfish and porgies in Peconic Bay during the spring. It's now almost thirty years since I first made the trip east from Merrick to the "promised land" I'd read about in classic books by S. Kip Farrington and Van Campen Heilner. Unfortunately, by the time I started fishing Peconic Bay, the weakfishing had petered out to practically nothing. Farrington and Heilner were writing about the great weakfishing of the Thirties, which gradually faded out in the Forties.

Despite the lack of weakfish, I followed the advice of the experts and always fished a high hook with a strip of squid while doing a job on the super-abundant porgies. I well remember hooking a 3 lb. 11 oz. weakfish off Shelter Island in June, 1954. That fish created quite a stir at the Port of Egypt Fishing Station and was my personal record for many years thereafter. All of which goes to prove that the "good old days" weren't always all that good!

During the spring weakfish run in the Fifties and Sixties there were very few fish taken, though the great porgy runs at the same time kept the rental stations busy. Then, just as everyone had virtually written the weakfish off, a tremendous resurgence occurred at the beginning of the last decade. It was a real thrill to fish Peconic Bay in the spring of 1972 and catch lots of weakfish on both squid strips and jigs. The weaks still weren't big, but just the sight of those beautiful fish returning to the bay was excitement enough. By 1973 the two to three pounders had grown a pound or so, and their growth actually speeded up after that. By 1975, six pounders were common and weaks over 8 lbs. were caught everyday. The era of the record breaking weakfish was upon us.

It appears that spring weakfishing peaked a few years ago. Those ten to fourteen pound sea trout that everyone desires are still around in good quantity, but there don't seem to be as many of the "average" five to ten pounders. As a result, the bonanza rental boat catches of the late Seventies aren't likely to be repeated this spring—though anglers who concentrate on the sport should continue to do well.

Weakfish may look like trout, but they really don't have much in the "smarts" department. It's a miracle they've been able to survive at all under the combined sport and commercial pressure. They're extremly vulnerable in shallow waters, and one commercial fisherman told me that they seem to go out of their way to get involved in a gill net! Nevertheless, I often find weakfish to be as unpredictable as striped bass in their habits and preferences. There are few "rights and wrongs" in weakfishing, and the successful angler is always ready to make whatever changes are necessary in order to please the quarry.

There are a few rules about weakfishing in the spring that usually hold true. For instance, you'll rarely go wrong by fishing at night—with dawn and dusk the next best bets. Unfortunately, the rental boat customer doesn't have the option of fishing at the best times. The rental stations generally open right around daylight, and require the boats to be back by mid-afternoon. That means you'll have to arrange your trip to get to the station early enough to be first on line—and be ready to shove off just as soon as the motor is on the boat. That early fishing, before the mob arrives, can make your entire day!

It should go without saying that reservations are a must during the spring weakfish season. It's almost impossible to get a boat without a reservation on the weekends, and it can also be a problem during the week. That's especially the case if you have a large group and want one of the larger skiffs. However, even a reservation won't do you any good in terms of getting off early. The lines can be very long and it's first-come, first-served. If you arrive at the station opening time, it can be another hour before you get away—the best "bite" of the day may be over when you arrive at the grounds.

One advantage of fishing from a rental station is that up-to-date fishing information is readily available. The station knows just where the fish were caught the day before and, if conditions haven't changed, that's where the weaks are likely to be again. They'll also know what bait or lures did the job, and that bit of info can be as important as the spot. Frequently, the action will start on a particular stage of the tide; so keep that in mind when you try the recommended areas. Remember that the tide is about fifty minutes later each day, and don't leave before it reaches the same stage as the day

before.

Spring weakfishing is the ideal way for the freshwater angler to get started in the briny. The very same tackle used in freshwater is not only suitable, but usually preferable to saltwater gear. Even the lures are often similar. The plastic worm used for largemouth bass has been one of the most consistent producers of spring weakfish during the past few seasons. While weakfish are good fighters, they don't have a great deal of endurance and are ideal targets for light tackle anglers. While most fishermen stick with ten or twelve pound test mono on their spinning outfits, there's actually no need to go over 6 lb. I fished that pound test exclusively one day a couple of years ago and had excellent results with weaks to eleven pounds—without experiencing a single break-off. A short Bimini twist was tied in the terminal end of the line, and that seemed sufficient to take the abuse involved in bouncing a worm and jig off the bottom.

The traditional technique of drifting with a hi-lo rig will probably always produce fish in Peconic Bay. The long-leadered top hook is usually baited with a long, slim strip of squid, while one or two bottom hooks carry small pieces of clam or squid. Thus, the angler hopes to catch weakfish on the high hook and porgies on the bottom hook. Unfortunately, he all too often spends most of his time with the line out of the water unhooking sea robins—while he passes over weakfish. If it's weaks you're after, you'll generally be better off sticking with artificial lures. I've caught some sea robins on small diamond jigs, but they seem to be turned off by the jig and worm combo. Just slip the worm over the jig head hook so it lays out straight. Any "bunching" on the hook will destroy the action.

It seems that every year someone comes up with a new lure that catches the fancy of spring weakfish. I won't speculate on what lure that might be this spring, but you should be well equipped with the standards. As previously noted, the jig and worm combination has been the steadiest producer the last two years. Carry a variety of jig heads from one-quarter to one ounce, and buy your worms by the bag full. I've had very good luck with the nine inch Tom Mann Jellyworms, but I'm sure that other brands will also produce well. Some anglers have done well with shorter worms at times, and just about any color will work at one time or another. Red, purple, and green are the usual favorites, but don't be afraid to experiment. A slight change in shade sometimes seems to turn the fish on.

Other lures that work include jigs with plastic tails (such as the Boone Trout Tout and Bagley Salty Dog), one ounce diamond jigs, small Hopkin, and bucktail jigs. The Tiger Tail originated by Don Bingler, and also made by Spider, was the hottest lure on the Tin Can Grounds last summer, and I expect that some of the "sharpies" will be giving that small tube and jig head combo a shot in Peconic this spring. Though I've shied away from bait the last couple of years, there were some fine catches made last spring on sand worms. That's not the cheapest way to go, but it works very well at times. Of course, all of the lures are also expendable. The weakfish don't do much damage (though the plastic worms will rip after a few fish), but bluefish have been arriving in the bay earlier every year—and they merrily cut off worms (if you're lucky) or the entire lure.

Weakfish respond to a variety of retrieves, but generally you can't move the lure too slowly. I enjoy casting for any game fish and have usually done very well with the spring weakfish in that fashion. Normally, the cast is made downwind from the drifting boat and retrieved just fast enough to keep up with the lure. At other times, the lure is cast up-tide or on a quarter in order to get different actions and sinking rates. To illustrate how little action is required, a "dead" rod will sometimes produce as well or better than the lure being worked. Last spring I ran into a situation in South Race where I was doing nothing by casting, while other boats were picking away by simply drifting the jigs out and moving them very slightly, if at all. It was pretty boring, but I couldn't catch that morning until I switched to that sedentary technique.

In deeper water, a straight up and down jigging technique is often more effective than casting. In 1979, I was fishing with one of the real pros in this area, Guy DeBlasio of Manhattan, when our casting action petered out during the middle of the tide. However, we noticed boats ganging up in the channel at South Race and went over to investigate. We soon found that a good pick was occurring on the same jig and worm combos fished with heavy heads so they could be jigged straight up and down on a ledge coming out of deep water. All the hits would occur within a few feet on the edge of that ledge. The same technique was just as effective on the Middle Grounds last spring.

Most Peconic weakfishing is done in Little Peconic Bay from the South Race area (between Robin's Island and Cow Neck, on the south fork) and Jessup's Neck. I've also caught weakfish around much of Shelter Island, but the biggest concentrations seem to occur in Little Peconic Bay. Of course, that's no big secret, and you won't have any trouble locating the hotspots. Most of my earlier experience was out of Port of Egypt and Southold Fishing Stations, and I fished primarily at Jessup's and the Middle Grounds. The last couple of years I've fished out of Captain Marty's in New Suffolk and have concentrated on the South Race area. The usual technique there is to start drifting just inside the channel and

(Continued on next page.)


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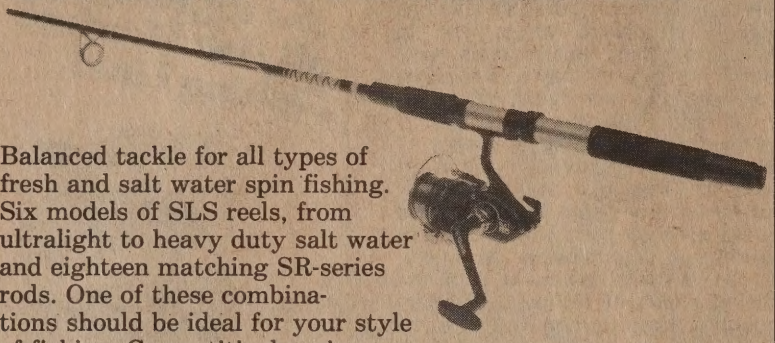

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work out over the shallower water. The fish can be almost anywhere, but you can soon narrow that down by observing where you get strikes or where other boats are hooking up.

Since boat traffic can really do a job on the fishing, it's sometimes wise to move away from the fleet and check out other areas. The deep water off the south shore between Cow Neck and Jessup's doesn't look like anything special, but there are often lots of weakfish if you can locate the concentrations. One afternoon a couple of years ago, I fished that stretch with Guy DeBlasio and we ran into a very unusual occurrence. It was a slick calm, cloudy afternoon and we were able to spot groups of weakfish circling on the surface with their fins out of the water. It may have been some sort of spawning ritual, but the fish would hit lures fished under the surface.

Last year I had fellow outdoor writer Dave Bowring, of Mine Hill, New Jersey, along for his first fling at weakfishing. We got a late start from Captain Marty's and missed the early flurry. Fishing in South Race got picky in a hurry and I started to think about other favorite spots. The Middle Grounds, a deep water area located between the sand bar coming off Nassau Point and the tip of Jessup's Neck, was well populated with anchored boats (including a couple of party boats). In the Fifties and Sixties I'd loaded up on big porgies there with great consistency, but had only fished it occasionally for weakfish in the Seventies. We found an open spot and started a long drift. Nothing happened as we passed through the fleet, but just on the other side we hit a great concentration of small (2 to 5 lb.) weakfish that kept us busy. The "dead" rod got just as much action as those we were working, and we shortly had a good catch of fish on what was (for most) a very poor day.

Though the anchored boats weren't sharing in that particular blitz, there are times when you can do well at anchor. A couple of times I've been broken down in rental boats and have still managed to catch a few weaks by keeping up the casting until help arrived.

Even though spring weakfishing has been getting a little tougher each of the last couple of years, you can overcome the odds and get in on some great action by making your move at the right time. The biggest weaks usually arrive first, to be gradually replaced by smaller fish as the season advances. Depending on weather conditions, these fish could arrive during the first or second week in May. The best time to go (if you're looking for tiderunners) is as soon as a few big catches have been made. Pick a weekday if at all possible, get out there early, and stay as late as the station will allow. You may not fill up the boat, but with persistence, you'll find that rental boat weaks make for a pleasant day afloat.

# FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

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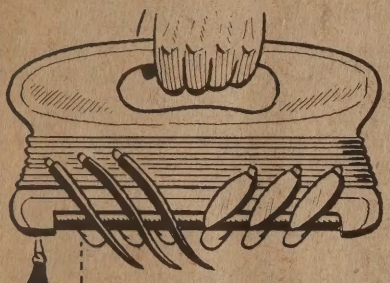
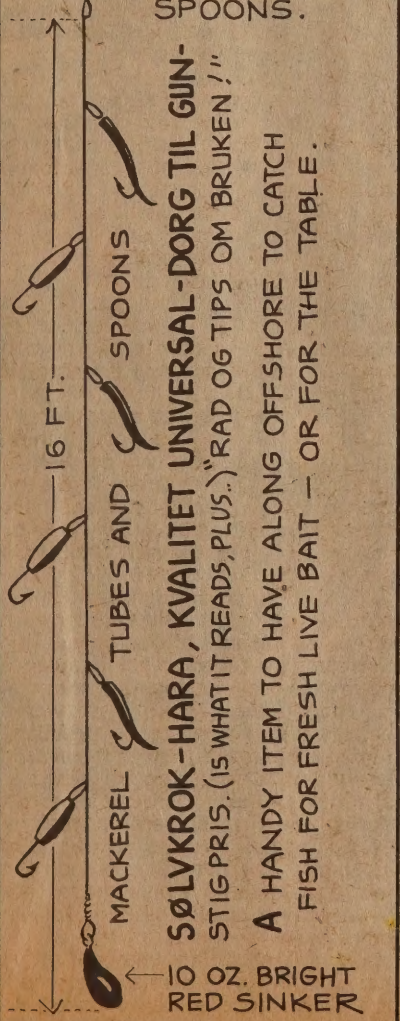


HOLDS 225 FT. OF 40 LB. MONO LINE WITH 10 OZ. SINKER, 3 TUBES AND 3 SPOONS.

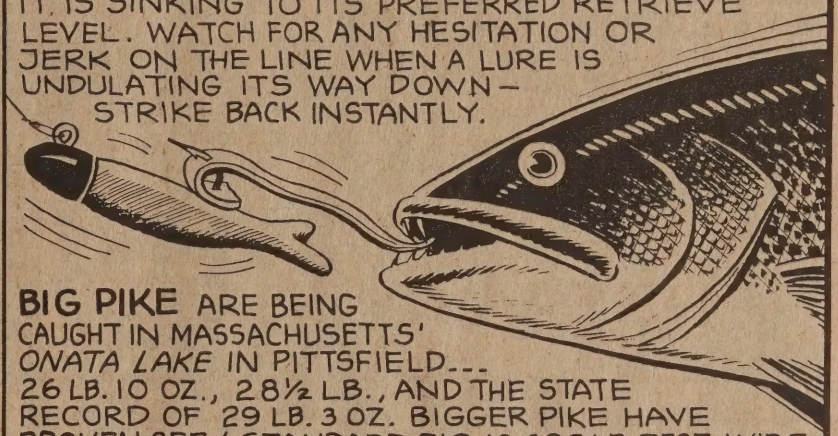



**SØLVKROK-HARA, KVALITET UNIVERSAL-DORG TIL GUN-** STIG PRIS. (IS WHAT IT READS, PLUS.) "RAD OG TIPS OM BRUKEN!"

A HANDY ITEM TO HAVE ALONG OFFSHORE TO CATCH FISH FOR FRESH LIVE BAIT — OR FOR THE TABLE.

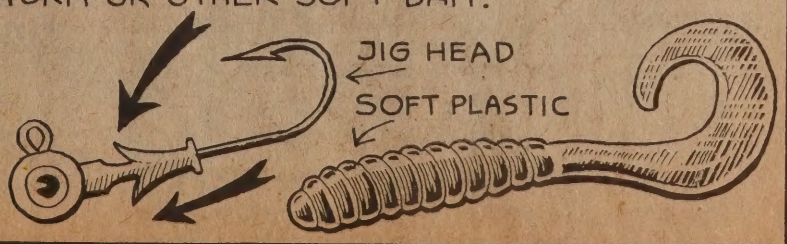
**SWEETENING TROUT FLIES** WITH BAIT CATCHES FISH. A THIN SLICE OF FISH BELLY ON A BUCKTAIL WHEN STREAM FISHING... ...A WHOLE WORM OR SMALL LIVE MINNOW ON A STREAMER WHEN TROLLING PONDS AND LAKES.

**WEAKFISH** AND OTHER GAMEFISH OFTEN STRIKE A CAST LURE AS IT IS SINKING TO ITS PREFERRED RETRIEVE LEVEL. WATCH FOR ANY HESITATION OR JERK ON THE LINE WHEN A LURE IS UNDULATING ITS WAY DOWN — STRIKE BACK INSTANTLY.



**BIG PIKE** ARE BEING CAUGHT IN MASSACHUSETTS' *ONATA LAKE* IN PITTSFIELD... 26 LB. 10 OZ., 28½ LB., AND THE STATE RECORD OF 29 LB. 3 OZ. BIGGER PIKE HAVE BROKEN OFF. STANDARD RIG IS 100 LB. TEST WIRE LEADER WITH 7/0 SALTWATER HOOK. BAITS ARE LIVE SHINERS TO 10 INCHES AND 8-15 INCH SUCKERS. HOOK BAIT JUST BEFORE DORSAL FIN — KEEP BAIT ONE FOOT OFF BOTTOM.

**BARBED JIGHEADS** FOR HOLDING PLASTIC WORMS ON TIGHTER... USE SHARP KNIFE TO CUT TWO BARBS INTO THE SOFT METAL OF THE COLLAR BEFORE SLIPPING ON A WORM OR OTHER SOFT BAIT.



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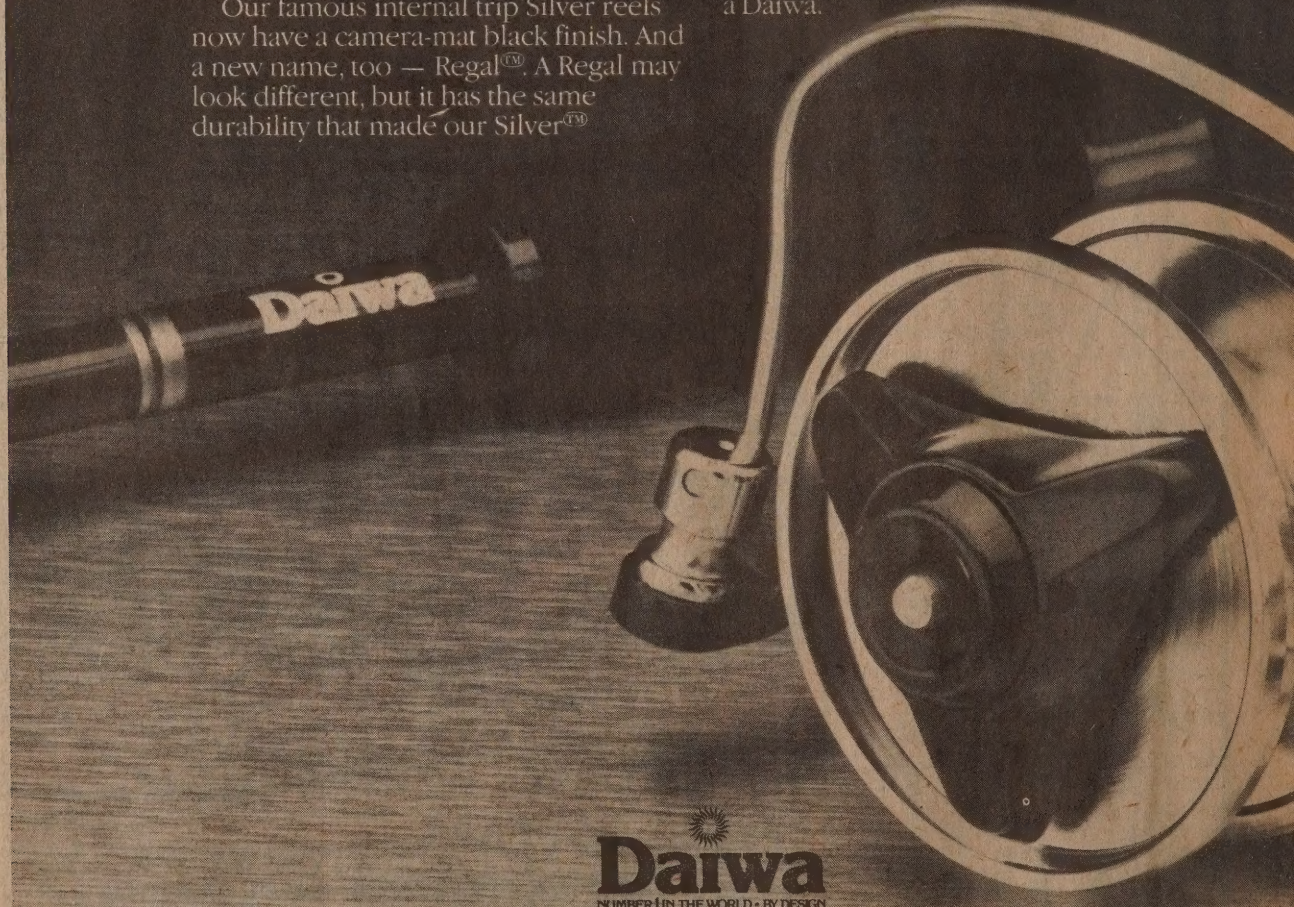


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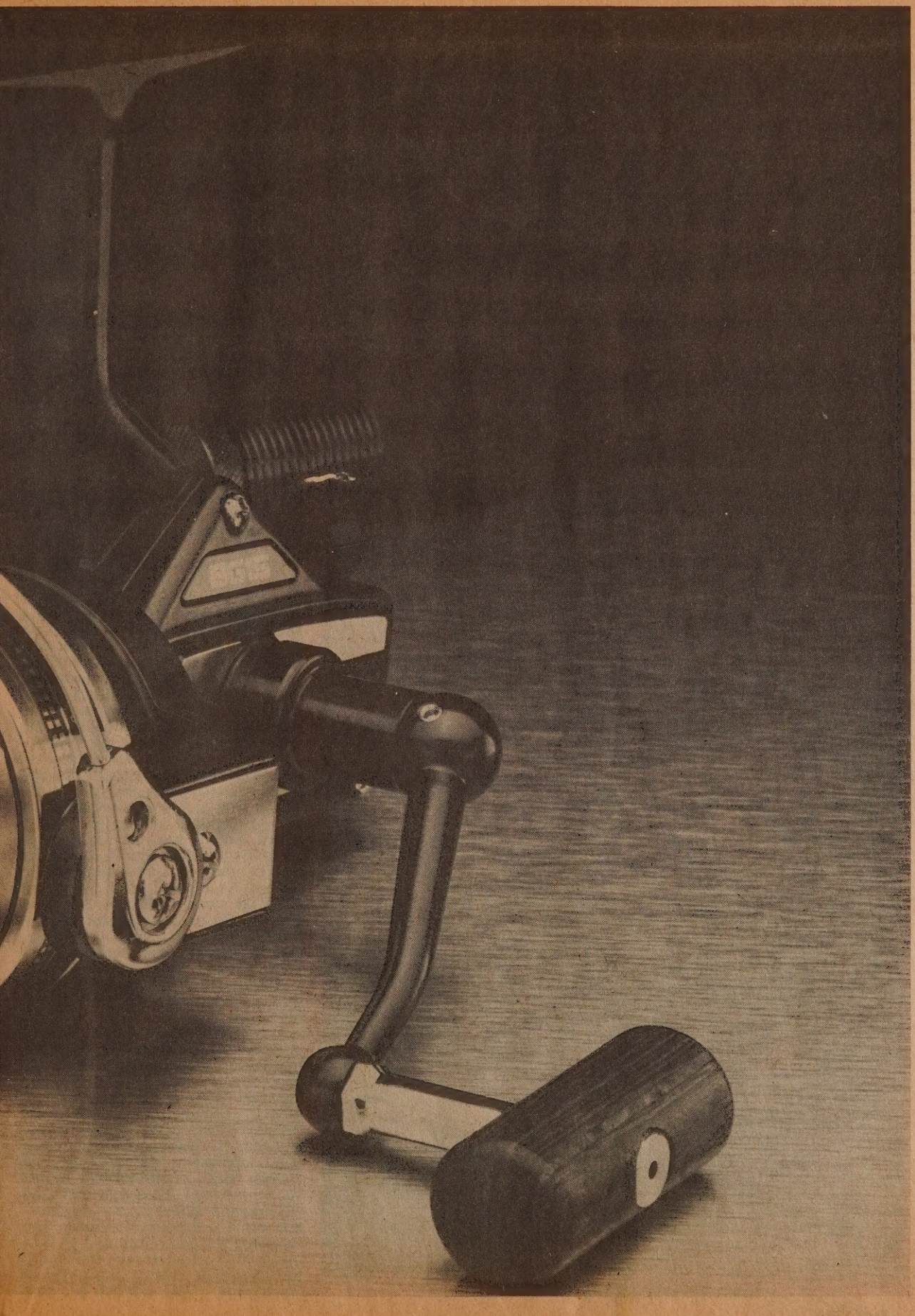
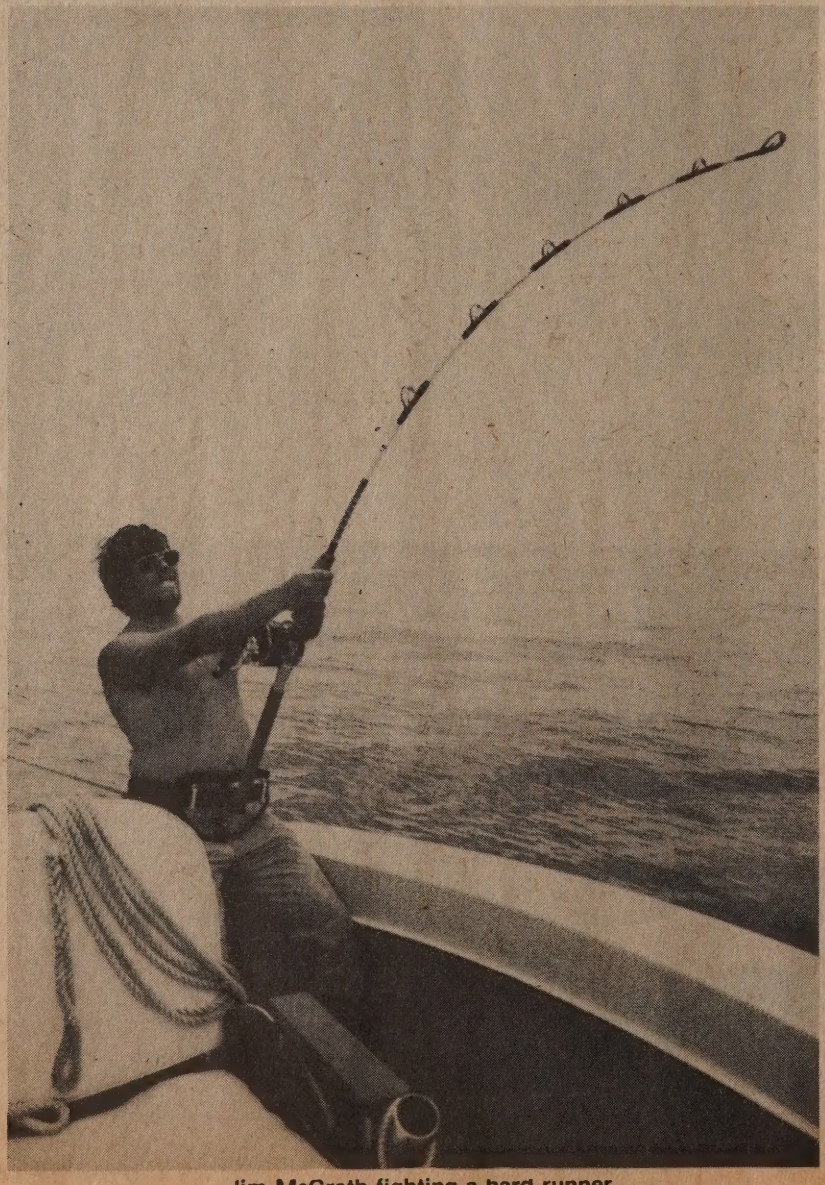


# Tournament Fever: CATCH IT!

## by Capt. Zac Grossman

It was late afternoon as we tooled down the Long Island Expressway heading for the "Captains' meeting" at Montauk that evening. The long-awaited weekend of the Shark Tournament had finally arrived and the five of us could think of little else. But as the miles melted away, my thoughts returned to the first time I could ever remember feeling the thrill of competitive fishing.

I was standing in the surf at Wasque Point, Martha's Vineyard watching a school of stripers work its way toward the shore. There was a picket line of anglers waiting with rods poised for the school to come within casting distance. Suddenly scores of lures filled the air and I distinctly remember the excitement I felt. I could sense that everyone was wishing that he would be the first to connect with a bass. When someone finally did, he looked around to see if anyone had noticed. Of course, everyone had. The pride of accomplishment, the thrill of victory and all that are certainly felt by fishermen, too.



Jim McGrath fighting a hard runner.

When I first entered the tournament, these thoughts were far from my mind. I signed up because it seemed the right thing to do. I am a member of the M.C.A. (Montauk Captains' Association) and this was their first attempt at running a tournament. It was to be a charity event with half the proceeds, after expenses, going to the winners and the other half being split between the Cancer Society and the Heart Fund.

It was not until a few days after deciding to participate that I realized just how much fun this might be. That's when I first remembered the thrill of landing a "big one" in a crowd. It didn't take much to convince some friends to join me in competing against ninety-nine other boats for the honors. As the day grew closer and closer we would meet more and more often to discuss strategies (at least we thought they were), play with tackle, and daydream about winning first prize. I even went out and had T-shirts made up to make us look like a team. Team spirit did indeed run high.

I pulled into my marina and dropped my friends at the boat; the tournament committee requested that only one representative from each boat be present at the captains' meeting where rules would be discussed and contest materials distributed. The meeting took place in a room supplied by Henry Colombi of the Star Island Yacht Club who hosted our tournament. Each rule was read aloud by the committee and occasionally some discussion followed. The rules had obviously been written by a group dedicated to sport fishing because they clearly prevented a "shark kill." Only one fish per boat

per day would be weighed in, so there was no point in dragging a bunch of sharks home. Tagging was encouraged with tagging kits available to everyone and a special prize for the boat tagging the largest number of sharks. Jack Casey and biologists from the American Museum of Natural History as well as journalists and representatives from the charities and many tackle companies would be present.

The meeting went on for quite some time and finally it ended. Anticipation filled the air as we all filed out and headed for our boats to prepare for the big event. We didn't get much sleep that night with discussing the meeting, putting up the tournament numbers, and double-checking tackle. The committee had decided that half the boats would leave at 5AM on one day and the other half would leave at 6AM the same day, with the order being reversed on the second day of the tournament. Each shift would get the same amount of time, as the return deadline was likewise staggered by shift. This would make the weighing of fish much easier than having all hundred boats showing up at one time.

After what seemed like only minutes of sleep, the alarm clock bravely announced the arrival of 3:30 a.m. The restaurant was full of excited anglers; the whole town seemed tuned in to the fact that this was a tournament weekend. We cast off the lines and headed for Star Island's yellow dock. Posted at its end were volunteers (the daughters and sons of MCA members). We deposited the "Saturday card" into a landing net held out for that purpose and headed for the breakwater. The numbers on the boat were checked against the card and against the name on the transom and the Mako Express was officially clocked out.

It was a beautiful morning as the sun rose and the rays glinted off the windows of the tournament fleet pouring out of the inlet. The excitement literally filled the air around us. The fleet broke up upon reaching the lighthouse and fanned out in a wide pattern, each skipper heading for the spot he knew would yield the winning fish.

A little over an hour had passed (it seemed a lot longer than that) and we were there. The boat settled into an easy drift and the chum was spreading its come hither scent. Teamwork was responsible for getting the baits overboard in record time. We were now fishing. The radio was filled with more than the usual chatter for a Saturday and like always, I turned it off in favor of the stereo tape deck. We drifted slowly along as Fleetwood Mac began a rock concert on our little piece of ocean.

It wasn't very long before we spotted a fin knifing its way up the slick. It was an average sized blue shark. He nosed around awhile then finally picked up a bait. A few seconds later and the reel was screaming as the fish took off on a decent run. The cameras clicked once or twice as the fish was brought alongside and the tag inserted. Irv's turn was over. He had drawn the highest card which gave him first shot. I was "on deck," pardon the pun. It didn't take more than ten minutes until there was a pick-up on the deep line and a few moments later I was fighting what turned out to be another blue. The tag was in after a short tussle and Pat was up.

The line pulled from the clothespin with a loud "snap" and the clicker on the reel protested the speedy runoff. The hook was set and the grunt that escaped Pat's lips signaled that this was not going to be a short battle. The fish made two long runs, then sounded and played tug-of-war for awhile. Finally Pat pumped it to the surface where the flying gaff waited to greet it. When it got there we found it to be a blue no larger than the other two, so we tagged it and let it go. It wasn't large enough to be a contender. Some blue sharks really get hot when hooked and fight well beyond what their size would indicate. Steve was up.

The line slipped out of the pin and slowly began to feed overboard. Steve picked up the rod, disengaged the clicker and thumbed the spool. The fish on the other end was playing with the bait, picking it up, then dropping it; picking it up, then dropping it again. Steve was getting nervous. Finally the fish seemed to commit itself, running off with the bait. The gears clicked and the hook was set. The water erupted as a bright

(Continued on next page.)

Weigh-in time (Steve Piselli in foreground).

blue-and-white missile shot into the sky. It was a mako! Nothing can compare with the rocket-like flight ending in a "Nestea Plunge" that is characteristic of these fish. They often seem to hang in the air at the top of their climb before falling over into the sea.

Cameras were quickly readied, but this fish refused to oblige—that one jump was to be it. Instead it chose to stay just under the surface and give some blistering runs both away from and toward the boat. Steve manhandled the fish and finally got it alongside where the waiting gaff finally was brought into play. A few minutes later and one of the cleats was adorned with the most beautiful of sharks, its chromed sides and white belly glistening as it twisted and turned against the tail ropes. The stereo belted out "Jumping Jack Flash," the tape I always play in their honor whenever we land a mako, and we celebrated with a round of cold brews.

It was now Jimmy's turn. The slick was alive with fish. Not five minutes had passed and there he stood waiting out a runoff, thumb poised on the gear lever; waiting for the right moment to strike. He did so and the fish ran off just off under the surface making a looping turn to the right. The line passed under the bow and Jim had to scramble to keep from losing the fish. We were all thinking mako, but it turned out to be another "hot" blue shark, which we finally sent on its way with the yellow tag standing out against its purple-blue back. Time passed into early afternoon with fish after fish being released until it was time to head for home and the weigh-in of the first day's catch.

The mako was moved to the gin pole and belly roped to the pole and a spring cleat to prevent it from swinging into the cockpit during the ride home. The diesels roared to life and we began the return trip. On the way, the boat was completely cleaned so we wouldn't have to do it later and those special T-shirts were donned. We were really feeling the tournament spirit and couldn't wait to get in.

Again we met the fleet as we merged with all the traffic heading for the inlet. As we neared the marina, the dock was lined with onlookers, fingers pointing at the gin pole as they did for every boat returning with a fish to weigh. The air was electric as the boats continued to return and the clock wound down. One boat, carrying a contender on the gin pole, was even disqualified for entering the breakwaters minutes after the deadline. Tournament leaders were posted and everyone went to dinner. Montauk was pretty lively that night and there was still another day to go, ending with the award ceremony.

The next day came and went and was just as thrilling. We did not win the tournament, but enjoyed the preparations, the fishing, the weigh-ins, and the award ceremony so much you would never know we hadn't won. Tournament fishing adds a new dimension to the sport that can't be adequately described in words alone. I strongly suggest that you try it. Enter one, and when the Weigh-master announces the name of YOUR boat over the loudspeaker, you'll be glad you contracted Tournament Fever.

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__Individual __Club

Entrant's Name_____ Club (if any)_____

Home Address_____ Phone_____

Name of Boat_____ Owner of Boat_____

Type of Boat_____ Make of Boat_____

Length_____ Color Hull_____ Color Deck_____ Flying Bridge____

Beam_____ Draft_____ Fuel (gas or diesel)_____ Cruising Speed_____

VHF Call Number_____ *Dockage Required Yes____ No_____

Documentation or Reg. Number_____ Do you require release tags?____

*Dockage fee not included in entry fee.

Application must be completed in full.
Minimum boat size will be 24 feet in length.
All entry fees are non-refundable.

Return this completed form with $150 check, payable to Montauk Captains Assoc. to:

William Bock, Treas.
19 Cambridge Street
Roslyn Heights, NY 11577

Applications must be submitted no later than June 1, 1981

# MONTAUK
## ★ BEST BET ★
## COD

Capt John Sweetman of the charter boat **Ebb Tide** had 78 cod on Saturday for the day's party at SW Ledge.

Capt Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** called to say the codfishing remains good and that Sunday's action was red hot with 74 cod for Dr. Mike Zweibel and party. During the week a couple of 20 to 25 lb. cod were mixed in with the general run of fish which were in the 8 to 10 lb. class.

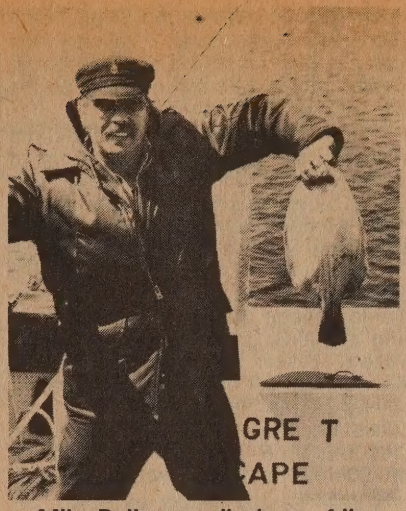
Capt Paul Forsberg, Sr. has just returned with the **Viking Starship** after a winter's sailing out of Key West. The skipper will be making the Cox's Ledge run every Saturday and Sunday starting this weekend. Call

**The Hopper party from New Jersey put away 88 cod at S.W. Ledge on a recent trip aboard the charter boat "Adios."**

the **Viking Fleet** for sailing time.

**Gone Fishing Fishing Station** reports that on Saturday that John Barch and Phil Barsado had 40 flounders up to 3 lbs. at Tobacco Lot on clam. Bill Ricca had 28 cod up to 15 lbs. and 30 flounders up to 4 lb. fishing SW Ledge on clam. Ron Fadrowski on Friday had 38 cod up to 25 lbs., 2 blackfish and 4 lb. sea bass all at SW Ledge. Saturday saw Bill Taylor Jr. and Sr. hoist 35 snowshoes up to 5 lbs., 6 cod and 3 big sea bass on clam bait fishing off Block Island. Maureen says the fishing was really good this weekend. She also advises that the charter boat **Nostalgia II** is now sailing from the **Gone Fishing Marina.**

Charter boat **Windy** called and reported that Tuesday's and Wednesday's charter had very good cod fishing. 97 were caught Tuesday and 60 on Wednesday. Tuesday's charter also had a 5 lb. plus flounder. Fish have been running (cod) 3 to 15 lbs. This has been at the Hooter and SW Ledge. There have not been any sand



**Mike Bullerman displays a 4 lb. snowshoe flounder taken while codfishing on Southwest Ledge. Photo courtesy of Montauk Marine Basin.**

eels in the fish's bellies. Saturday's charter had 25 cod.

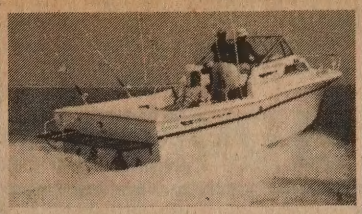
Capt Mike of the charter boat **Montauk** had Al Atkins and Dan Catlana out and they whipped 107 cod, fish averaging 10 lbs. More snowshoes and blackfish are showing now and also a few pollack south of Block Island. Over 50 cod were taken Saturday but bad tides generally caused the weekend's catch to suffer. Action has been at the Hooter and SW Ledge and also 20 minutes east thereof with diamond jigs catching most of the fish.

Capt Jerry McGrath of the charter boat **Nostalgia II** called to say that he's moved the boat from Mattituck and is now fishing out of **Gone Fishing Marina** on East Lake Drive for the balance of the 1981 season.

Capt Wayne King of the charter boat **King Wayne** called to say that Saturday's charter for Boyles Fishing Club, Sound Beach, picked 40 codfish at Block Island and 9 snowshoes up to 4 lbs. Sunday's trip for Walter Steinenger of Woodside was hi hook with a cod of 15 lbs. Fishing was slow due to poor conditions off Cartwright and they only had 10 fish but still ended up with a big bag of cod fillets.

**Codfishing at Block Island has come into its own as demonstrated by these cod hanging from the rails of the "Viking Star."**


GW



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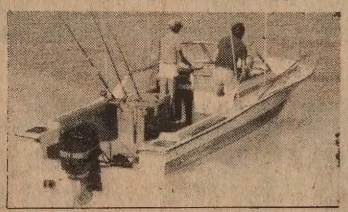

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# SOUTH FORK
## ★ BEST BET ★
# FLOUNDER

## SHINNECOCK

The **Capt Clark II** has been fishing the Basket and Greenlawn area of Shinnecock Bay this past week with good results. Flounders from 1½ to 2½ lbs. are being caught in abundance. On Monday 9 fares scored with 200 fish fishing both tides. Wednesday saw Leslie Phillips of Syosset bag 34 good flatties. He returned Sunday with his wife Delores and they had a total of 72 flounders for the day. On Friday Andy Peda and wife of Hampton Bays scored with 42 flounders. The pool fish was a 2 pounder. The Capt expects to weakfish this coming weekend if reports are good. Please watch this column and phone for info for weakfishing.

**John and Barbara Kopp, Carollee Secchi, and Carolina Paris made this catch of 72 flounder up to 2½ lbs. at buoy 42 on bloodworms. They fished out of Skidmore's Fishing Station.**

Hank reported from **Altenkirch Tackle** that weaks showed signs of improvement this past week and small blues swarmed into Shinnecock Bay Monday morning. Most of the choppers were in the 1-2 lb. class. Weakfishing in the canal has been spotty up to this point but the picture could change quickly. Flounder fishing remains good in the area with Heady Creek and the basket area producing best on worms and clams. Many of the fish are in the 1-2 lb. class. For those looking for them, the best mackerel fishing seems to be out in 90 to 100 ft. of water south of Shinnecock.

## MORICHES BAY

Nick at **Cerullo's Fishing Station** spoke of excellent flounder fishing both Saturday and Sunday at buoys 29 and 30. Fish are good sized, up to 2½ lbs. and are being taken on sand worms, bloodworms and mussels. One boat had nearly 200 flounder on Sunday, while Nick himself left the station for a few hours and returned with around 100 flatties. On Saturday, Jeff Grau and his girl friend, both of Levittown returned with nearly 100 flounder from the same buoy 29-30 area. Nick added that incoming water has been producing the best action.

Gary from **Silly Lily Fishing Station** described the flounder fishing as excellent during the week and over the weekend. Boats averaged 50 to 80 fish apiece fishing buoys 39 to 42 with bloodworms and mussel chum. On Saturday, Phil Prager and Brian and Allan Post totaled 75 flatties from 1 to 1½ lbs. at buoy 41. Same day, Jim Kottanuer single-handledly put away 55 flounder at buoy 41. Gary noted that a few fluke are beginning to show in the bay also.

**Dennis Oleksin, Joe Hopp and John David, all of Queens, with 103 flounder up to 2 lbs. taken N.E. of buoy 42 with worms and mussel chum. Photo courtesy of Seatuck Cove Fishing Station.**

**L&M Marine** reports that flounder fishing on Saturday was fantastic. All boats returned with lots of flounder in the 3/4 to 2 lb. range. Henry Chu along with his son Kenny caught 249 keepers up to 2½ lbs. using sand worms and mussel chum fishing between buoys 43 and 44. It was without peer the best flounder day of the year.

## HAMPTON BAYS

John Mangino reported the best day of the season on Saturday with all boats returning with plenty of flounder. Per man catches ranged from 40 to 60 flounder weighing 1 to 2¼ lbs. Eddie Seeuwen, Bob Seitz and Joe Cucinella were among those who did a leap job on the fish. The first catch of weaks, 3 fish from 5 to 7 lbs., were taken by Pete Jr. and Sr. and Billy Plumb, along with Bob Hill. Captain Luis Mensial returned with over 300 mackerel taken south of Shinnecock Inlet. Sunday's fog, rain and Mother's Day severely limited activity.

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# GREAT SOUTH BAY
## ★ BEST BET ★
# FLDR.—WEAKS

## MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz' Fishing Station** reported plenty flounder being taken from buoy 20 down to buoy 12 on bloodworms and mussel and corn chum. Biggest of the weekend was a 2¼ lber. taken by Artie Johansan near the SP Bridge. A couple of fluke showed up in recent days at buoy 19

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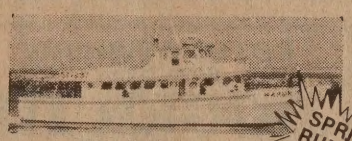


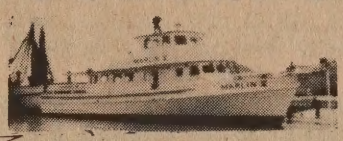

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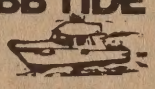

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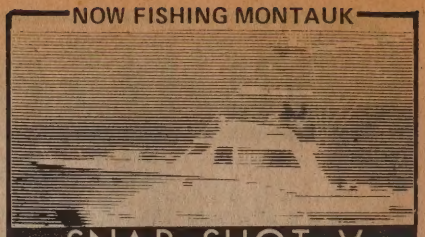

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and plenty of mackerel outside of the sea buoy. A good showing of school bass and some weaks at the Smith Point Bridge where they are being taken on sand worms, Tri-Fin Whiptails and jelly worms. In addition, Gary noted that the bay is full of striped bass measuring 4 to 5 inches long. It looks good for the future.

## WEST SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **South Bay Fishing Station** reported the weaks are in. Lots of activity with Saturday producing the best catches. Fish ranging from 5-12 lbs. at Ocean Beach taken on sand and jelly worms. Flounder still in good supply at Ocean Beach and Cherry Grove with many of the flatties

**Eleven-year-old Robert Johanson of Shirley caught this 2¼ lb. flounder under the Smith Point Bridge. Subscriber photo.**

averaging 8 lbs. in weight. George and Clyde Oakley had 7 weaks on Saturday from 7 to 12 lbs. John Rogers and Sal Rodriguez returned with 5 tiderunners on Sunday.

## OAKDALE

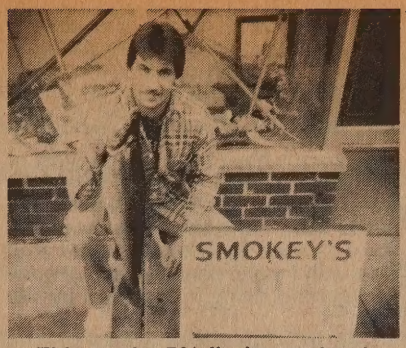
Dave at **J&R Sports Center** reported a mixture of blues and weaks at Ocean Beach, West Channel and on the Heckscher flats. On Saturday, Tom Hermann weighed in a tiderunner of 14 lbs. 10 oz. which he took on a jelly worm at Ocean Beach. Charlie Johnson had a 10½ lber the same day, while Jerry Goldberg took an 11¼ lber. from the same Ocean Beach grounds Friday. During the week Marie Sagat checked in a 10 lb. 7 oz. weak, the result of her first fishing trip ever. Blues in the 2-5 lb. class being taken in the inlet area by trollers and casters. For freshwater fans, Dave dropped in on Bubbles Falls Friday and returned to the shop with four rainbows from 13 to 15 inches, including one of the newly introduced Kamloops rainbows. All the fish were taken on salmon eggs. In addition, many trout in the 2-3 lb. class are being weighed in by fly casters working Connetquot State Park. Getting back to the brine, flounder fishing at the Sore Thumb over the weekend was good and there were plenty of mackerel south of F.I. Inlet as of the end of last week.

## EAST ISLIP

Irene at **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** reported that Cathy McLoughlin and her husband checked in a catch of six weaks taken on 6 lb. test from the Ocean Beach area. Fish ranged from 7½ to 12¼ lbs. and were taken on grape flavored jelly worms. Bob Shasrauer and Dove Fedder checked in a pair of weaks and blues taken at Ocean Beach on sand worms. Biggest weak was 9 lbs. 1 oz.

## OCEAN BEACH

Capt Morty of the charter boat **Sand Pearl** out of Freeport called about a busman's holiday aboard Capt Howard Sternberg's Judy II. Fishing along with Tony Agate and Doc Tesch at Ocean Beach's buoy 11 and drifting grape jelly worms and sand worms, the quartet totaled a dozen weakfish up to 12 lbs. 8 ozs., all weighed in at **Lou's Fishing Station**, Freeport.




**This trophy 7¾ lb. brown trout was taken by Bill Wonoski of West Islip at Bubbles Falls on the Connetquot River. Fish was weighed at Smokey's Bait and Tackle.**

## BAY SHORE

Linda of **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** reported very good flounder fishing continues in the Fire Island area. The best fishing is in the pocket at the Sore Thumb and along South Beach back east to West Channel. During the week, Gen and Don Brenton along with Tom Keegan fished the West Island area and returned with 75 flatties up to 2 lbs. On Friday, Frank and Dominic Costa fished the Sore Thumb area and put away 26 flatties in the 1 to 2 lb. class on worms. Weakfishing was worthwhile over the weekend for some. Bay Shore Tuna Club members Bill Frasier and Harold Stafford aboard the Windfall fished Ocean Beach and took 10 weaks up to 11¼ lbs. on sand worms and grape jelly worms. Another pair of Bay Shore Tuna Club members, Fred Zytka and Amauel Bento aboard the Patricia fished buoy 12 and returned with weaks up to 12 lbs. 1 oz. Linda reminded that the Bay Shore Tuna Club will be competing in a weakfish contest this coming weekend and all signs point to a successful affair. Mackerel scattered outside the inlet, but fish are being taken. Andy Sapp and Jack Merena returned with 75 big mackerel taken south of the inlet in 70 to 75 ft. of water. Some fluke up to 2 lbs. beginning to show in the area.

The open boat **Casey Lee** reported very good flounder and fluke fishing. Captain Neil has been fishing both species each day, but has been concentrating on fluke. Some of the better scores in recent days were 17 keeper fluke made by Jim and Elaine Dougherty of Brentwood. On Friday, Joe Long of Babylon was high hook with 33 flounder, going back to Thursday, Martin O'Malley had 26 flatties. The afternoon trips have been producing both blues and weaks at West Channel and Ocean Beach. Most of the fish being taken on jelly worms or sand worms.

## CAPTREE

Captain Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen** reported nice flounder being taken at the Sore Thumb and along South Beach. Action was good all weekend with the total catch on Saturday and Sunday coming to around 200 fish each day. On Friday, the skipper finished up the day by making three drifts for fluke near the Robert Moses bridge. The result was 30 of the newly arrived summer flatfish, of which 20 were keepers. Both Friday and Saturday produced good weakfishing on the evening trips with 25 to 30 tiderunners taken each night. Quite a few blues in the 2-6 lb. class mixed in with the weaks. Hottest lure has been strawberry jelly worms with sand worms taking fish also. LIF subscriber John Timmins of Astoria took 3 weaks on Saturday's trip including a tiderunner of 15 lbs. West Island and Ocean Beach have both produced well.

Captain George Bartenback of the

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**Capt. Rod** reported pretty decent flounder fishing in the inlet area. He described Friday and Saturday's fishing as good. Catches ranging anywhere from 5 to 20 fish per man, depending on individual ability. The skipper said that he will begin mixing in some fluke fishing with the flounder trips during the week. He also relayed word that Capt. Rod Westlind is recovering from a second heart attack in Good Samaritan Hospital, West Islip. The Captain is doing well, but a few words of cheer from customers and friends should help speed along his recovery. Rod is in Room 215.

Captain Joe Perozzi of the **Jib VI**, who has been fishing daily full day trips for weakfish during the week and sailing morning and afternoon trips on weekends reported a good showing of the yellowfins this week. Jelly worms have been taking most of the fish in the Ocean Beach and West Channel areas. Blues from 2-5 lbs. are mixed with the weaks which have run up to 11 lbs. The skipper asked that we remind customers that the required spinning tackle is provided by the boat.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy Fleet** described the mackerel fishing six miles southwest of the inlet on Sunday as super, with everyone aboard loading up with fish to 3 lbs. It was a good weekend for flatties with the pocket at the Sore Thumb and the Robert Moses Park Shore providing the best action. As for weaks, the skipper described the action from mid-week through Saturday as okay, but not so good on Sunday. He has been fishing Ocean Beach and West Channel with jelly worms and sand worms. In addition to the weaks, quite a few blues in the 3-4 lb. class are being taken also.

The Charterboat **Blue Albatross II** reported good catches of flounder on Saturday and Sunday at the Sore Thumb with about 200 fish being taken each day. Saturday's pool fish was a 2 lb. 9½ oz. flattie which wound up being the grand prize winner of the Natural Lite Beer flounder derby. Sunday's pool fish of 2 lbs. 6 oz. taken by Gennady Slutsky took 2nd place overall in the derby. Sy Stein of Flushing had the grand prize winner.

Charter boat **Flying Dutchman** fished a party from the St. Regis Hunting Club during the week. Thirty anglers totalled in the area of 300 flatties in the 3/4 to 1½ lb. class. They fished the pocket at the Sore Thumb with clam bait.

Captain George Tweedy of the open boat **Capt. Scotty** described the weakfishing as okay. On Saturday night 12 weaks were taken with 40 bluefish mixed with them. Sunday night, 70 blues and 8 weaks were taken. The choppers are in the 1 to 4 lb. range and most of the weaks run 6 to 10 lbs. with the largest taken to date on the boat being a 14 lb. tiderunner. Jelly worms and sand worms working best on the weaks.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the charter boat **Lady Ann** reported good flounder fishing on Saturday for a group from AT&T Long Lines. Fish were mixed in size and taken mostly on worms and clams. Fishing was done in the West Island area. Fishing mackerel on Friday anglers left the boat averaging a bag full of fish a man.

The open boat **Capt. Richie** reported good flounder fishing at the Sore Thumb with fish ranging from 3/4 to 2 lbs. being taken on worms and clams. The skipper added that fluke are being caught and he will begin mixing fluke and flounder fishing on each trip until the fluking becomes worthwhile enough to devote the whole day to.

The open boat **Capt. Joseph II** reported flounder fishing was fair over the weekend and that the boat will begin sailing fluke and flounder daily beginning this week. Weaks and blues being taken at Ocean Beach and West Channel on jelly worms and sand worms on the boat's 3PM weakfish trips. Blues run from 2 to 4 lbs., while weaks run from 6 to 10 with an occasional larger fish mixed in.

## BABYLON

Ski at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** reported a good weekend with weaks


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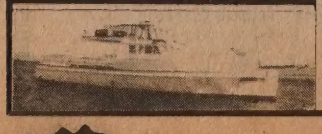
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and blues in the Fire Island area. On Saturday, Carl Fogliano took four weaks and four blues in West Channel on Strawberry jelly worms. He topped his catch off with a tiderunner of 13 lbs. 1 oz. Also Saturday, Captain Al Giglio returned from West Channel with seven weaks up to 9 lbs. taken on sand worms. Plenty of blues in the 2 to 5 lb. class, chummed and trolled in the bay and inlet by boatmen. Lots of nice flounder are being taken in the pocket at the Sore Thumb and along South Beach as the fish have concentrated in preparation of moving out of the bays. Mackerel still outside the inlet as of Saturday in 60 to 85 ft. of water and a few big blackfish have been taken on sand worms by weakfishermen.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

## LINDENHURST

The word from **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** was that Tim and Carla Plank and Mike and Michelle O'Halloran returned from buoy 12 with a catch of 12 flounder up to 1¾ lbs. as well as a 10¾ lb. weak taken by Tim. This was on Saturday. Also on Saturday, Charlie Van Eron fished the Coast Guard Station and took 6 blacks up to 3 lbs. on worms. Charlie Hassle and his crew returned with 8 blackfish, 50 flounder and a bluefish all taken on worms at the Sore Thumb. On Friday, Joe Guerra fished

## AMITY HARBOR

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buoy 4 and using grape jelly worms returned with three weaks to 9 lbs. Bluefish up to 4 lbs. have been mixed with the weaks.

## AMITYVILLE

The report from **George Combs Biat and Tackle** was of very good weakfishing for some anglers over the weekend. On Saturday, Joe Solka ran east to Ocean Beach and returned with a mess of weaks up to 9 lbs. On Sunday, another customer returned from the same area with a dozen weaks ranging from 8½ to 11 lbs. Both catches were made on sand worms drifted on a high hook rig. Flounder fishing continues very good at West Island and Four Corners with a lot of fish in the 1 to 2 lb. class being taken on worms and mussel chum.

## SEAFORD

Flounder holding up well, according to **Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle.** Best spots have been Squaw Island and Zachs Bay. On Friday, Ann and Steve Weiss demonstrated the quality of the fishing at Squaw Island with a catch of 75 flounder from 1/2 to 1¾ lbs. The pair used worms, chummed with clam and had most of their action on the ebb tide. Flounder fishing over the weekend slowed due to the weather. A few weaks around but most guys are running east to Fire Island. Blacks getting started at the bridges on green crabs and fiddlers, both of which Lon has a good supply of. A load of blues moved into the inlet over the weekend with many 2-3 lbers. taken by casters and trollers. A couple of weaks mixed with the choppers. Of the mackerel fishing, Lon said that some boatmen do a leap job while others do poorly. Best action seems to be in 50-60 feet of water.

The open boat **Chinco** reported good flounder fishing in the early part

## MORICHES

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of the week. A group from Lakeville TV Company averaged 20 fish a man while members of NYFD took anywhere from 5 to 15 flatties a man on Thursday's charter. Running open on the weekend, fishing was very good. One of the boat's regulars by the name of Ray was high hook with 41 fish, while Eddie Cubacz took the pool with a 2¾ lb. flattie. Fishing was done west of the 1 st and 2nd Wantaugh bridge.

John at **Pop's Fishing Station** said that even with the wind over the weekend the fishing was good, with flounder being taken at Massapequa Cove, buoys 13 and 14, south of Four Corners and in the drain leading to Squaw Island. Zachs Bay is not without fish either as "Little Al" returned with 3/4 bushel from this area. Among the catch of flatties made by Harry Carmosim and his friend Larry, were flatties of 3 lbs. and 2 lbs. 9 oz.

**Captain Eddy's Fishing Station** reported good flounder fishing continues in the area. Don Gracie and Joe Dugan fished Squaw Island on Saturday and using worms and mussels returned with 80 flounder from 1 to 2½ lbs. Fishing the same area, Pete Wojcieski and his son-in-law totalled 70 flatties up to 2½ lbs. They, too, used worms and mussels. Ed and Al Lorme ran two miles south of the inlet and loaded four tubs with mackerel from 1-3 lbs.

## BELLMORE

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** reported that since last Thursday, loads of small blues have roamed Jones Inlet. Scott and a friend had a bunch of the newly arrived choppers which butted in on their fluke fishing over the weekend. He added that boatmen casting tins appeared to be doing a job on the fish. Fluke have arrived in the inlet area, but many of the fish are

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shorts and some blackfish being taken at the Meadowbrook bridge on sand worms, clams and crabs. No word on any action with stripers yet.

## MERRICK

From **Nick's Fishing Station**, Jimmy said that flounder are still around in fair numbers, but action has slowed. He named Rowboat Alley and Merrick Point as two of the better producing spots, but noted that fish are running smaller at the latter spot. Blackfish just starting at the bridges and small blues were taken at the inlet by weakfishermen on Saturday. One boatman used diamond jigs to take five weaks in the inlet Sunday AM.

## BALDWIN

Mike of **Arthur Street Marina** reported mackerel in good supply in 60' to 75' of water southwest of the inlet. Small blues showed up over the weekend in the inlet area and were taken by trollers and casters. Most were in the 2 to 3 lb. class. A few blackfish being taken around the bridges and the first fluke have been taken in the area. For flounder, Scow Creek and Short Beach producing best on bloodworms.


**WEST END SOUTH SHORE**
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER


## FREEPORT

Capt Jimmy Lanzerotta of the **Super Spray II** called to say that he has been having excellent mackerel catches all week long and all through the weekend and that there is no indication of this coming to any sudden stop. Fares are bagging up without much problem with macks going 1 to 3 lbs. The skipper asked us to remind you of his special cod wreck fishing trip coming up on Memorial Day which is Monday, May 25th, sailing at 4 a.m. Jimmy is known in the area as a shark wreck fisherman so if you are interested, you best call for reservations early. See ad for details.

The **Capt Al** reports that it has been sensational slaughter fishing on the mackerel Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Cholera and a little to the SW. The macks are running up to 3 lbs. and it's definitely sack filling time. Small blues in the 1 to 2 lb. range have been swarming into the inlets. Al says watch for the birds along various spots along the South Beach and at the inlets.

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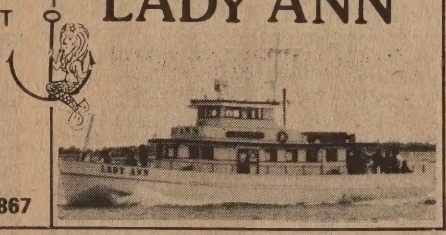
## LADY ANN



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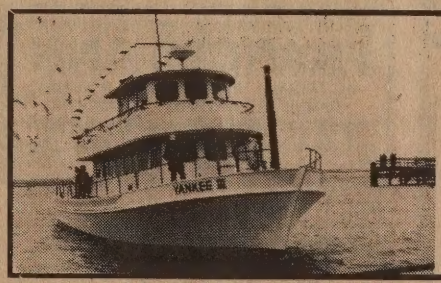

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**Chris Halinar shows off the pool winning flounder he caught aboard the Freeport open boat "Capt. Al."**

Capt Richie of the **Starstream II** also reports the finest kind of mackerel fishing close into Jone's Inlet with all fares having solid catches of macks from 1 to 3 lbs.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** also enjoyed super mackerel fishing this past week. On Wednesday the **BF II** sailed City Bank and had mucho macks fishing SE of Jone's in 70' of water. Capt Sy says that the new bar on the **BF II** was put to good use. John Thompson, the bartender, helped by 2 hosteeses poured the good cheer. The skipper says the services of the bar are available for corporate and social charters. Saturday's charter for the **BF II & III** had excellent mackerel catches south and SW of the Inlet. With Capt Tony at the wheel of the **BF II** hi hook for the Hanover Bank charter was Ed Goodwin. Aboard the **BF III** hi hook was Dennis Nuzzanotte of Fair Lawn NJ. Sunday's charter with Capt Charlie Adams on the **BF II** saw flounder caught locally up to 1½ lbs. with blowfish and small blues mixed in. The **BF III** on Sunday had fantastic mackerel catches fishing SE of Jone's, pulling fish all day long for Bank of Tokoyo. By 12:30 p.m. the charter was ready to call it quits. On April 25th the trip for Eagle Electric saw the pool taken by thirteen yr. old Paul Cohen with a 2 lb. 9 oz. flounder. Paul also received a LIF Skillful Angling Award.

Ronnie at **Sea Isle Sports** tells of blues and small bass at the west end jetty and in Jone's Inlet, taken on tin. Mackerel south and SW of the Inlet. Blacks hitting soft and hard baits at all the bridges. Ronnie had an 18 inch bass himself during the week while fishing at the Coast Guard Station for flounders. He says Swift Creek has come alive with flounders.

The **Capt Lou Fleet** reports flounders good all week and nice sized with a couple of kingfish, blows and blacks mixed in. Saturday on the ½ day trip on the **IV** Julius Spiegel of Brooklyn, bagged a 3½ lb. flounder along with

22 other fish. Sunday on the half day boat, Mike Rudloph, who is 8½ yrs. old, had 14 flounders from ¾ to 1½ lbs. Alice Bassler of Freeport had a 4 lb. black. On Sunday's full day trip, Dick of Atlantic Tires had 62 keepers.

Charter boat **Capt Gary** called to say that Saturday's charter for John Palcisc and friends, of Flushing, had a good day flounder fishing with Mike Deery taking hi hook honors with 43 flounder. Pool winner was his brother Jim with a 1½ pounder. They fished Reynold's Channel, Swift Creek and Sloop Channel. The skipper says he still has 2 open Saturdays in May.

## POINT LOOKOUT

**Ed's Fishing Station** reports that flounders are the big item in Middle Bay and between buoys 16 and 20 in Reynold's Channel. Hal Benson had a 3 lb. 1 oz. flounder along with 30 others. Worm and mussel on the hook and chum is the key. Incoming tide has been best, from half way in through high slack. Some fluke were taken on the weekend in the same areas. Mira and Hal Linden had 17 keeper fluke, several in the 2½ lb. range on sand eels and squid. Generally boats had 4 to 12 fluke along with a solid catch of flounders. Good catches of blacks at the bridges and Ed says he has fiddler crabs, though the blacks are hitting clam baits also. Some moving 4 to 6 lb. blues invaded Jone's Inlet chasing sand eels. Mackerel in 60' of water due south of the Inlet.

**Scotty's Fishing Station** tells of an excellent weekend on flounder. Some fluke and cocktail blues in the Inlet. Macks a couple of miles off the beach. Some keeper fluke also in Reynold's. Swift Creek and Reynold's Channel from buoys 16 to 19 have been good on flatties with worm, mussel and chum.

Charter boat **Marie III** reports that Saturday's trip for Bob Erhardt and group fished flounder in the bay. Best was Swift Creek from slack through the first half of the flood. They then hit Fundy and then high slack off LI Sea Clam. Fish are averaging ¾ to 1 lb. with a couple of 2 pounders mixed in. Pool winner was Chris Banwell with a 3½ lb. fluke and 2 midget fluke which were returned to the water. Sand worms worked best on the flounder. The skipper says he has May 23 and 30 available.

**Anthony's Fishing Station** tells us that their rental skiffs are bringing back good catches of flounder fishing in Merrick Bay, Swift Creek and Long Creek using clam, mussel and worms and clam chum. Fish are averaging 1 lb.

## ISLAND PARK

**Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook tells of a load of 3 to 4 lb. blues taken Saturday at Jones Inlet on tin along with 4 stripers in the 3 to 4 lb. range by Dave Curti of Valley Stream. This was a repeat of Friday's action. Saturday also saw 3 pals take 52 fluke drifting between the Loop Bridge and the Inlet. However, only 11 were keepers and these were in the 2½ lb. category. Three or 4 other fluke would follow a hooked fish to the surface so there must be a load of fluke moving in. Charlie weighed in an 11¾ lb. weak taken at the Meadowbrook Bridge Friday night on a drifted jelly worm. A 5 lb. weak was also taken. Plenty of flounders in Reynold's Channel on worms, clam and mussel. Super blackfishing at the bridges and jetties on clam and fiddlers. Charlie weighed in a 13½ lb. black which was caught in Greenport.

Capt Clem of the **Commodore** tells of continued good flounder fishing. Clem says the main channels are holding the most fish and there are a few in the inlets. A few fluke are taken each day but so far all have been throwbacks. Flounders remain hot to the tune of 25 to 35 for a good flounder pounder, fish hitting ¾ to 1½ lbs. Walter Speck had 40 flounders on Tuesday. Most of the action is at Reynold's Channel with some fish being caught in back. Clem says the fish are muddy. Their trip to the inlet has yet to begin. Some small blues in Jone's Inlet on either tin or squid fished on the bottom. Gillnetters working close to the beaches, have been getting weaks and bluefish so trollers can take note. Fantastic blackfishing at all bridges.

## LONG BEACH

**Long Beach Sports Marina** reports that blackfish, blowfish, flounder, fluke and macks were all brought back this weekend. Tom Irwin, Randy and Ronnie Phillips got a variety of fish all in the vicinity of Atlantic Beach Bridge. The trio got 20 blackfish, 30 flounder and 12 blowfish. Charles and Jim Troceller had a bucket of flounder fishing by the cement block while Eugene O'Sullivan fished Depths Inlet on Saturday and Sunday getting 95 to 90 fish respectively. Macks were caught in 85' of water and sharpies were doing a nice job on fluke in Duck Pt area. Anthony Boeninghaus got a 4 lb. fluke while fishing for flounder on mussel.

## EAST ROCKAWAY

**Skippy's Bait & Tackle** reports that loads of mackerel are being jigged just off Atlantic Beach and Lido Beach as are blues which seem to be behind them, but these blues are in the 5 to 6 lb. range. Flounders a good item at Debb's Inlet on worms, clams and mussels. The blackfishing remains good with a lot smaller fish being taken now. No weakfish reports on rod and reel yet from this area. A few short fluke have been taken.

## ATLANTIC BEACH

Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** reports excellent blackfishing at the Atlantic Beach Bridge and at


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the Atlantic Beach Silver Point jetties on green crab. Some fluke being taken around the Yacht Club and Duck Pt and also along Pt Lookout on the inside on squid and sand eel combos. Good flounders in front of the Long Beach HS on worm and clam. On Thursday, May 7th, Dora Reynolds of Brooklyn fishing the Atlantic Beach Bridge had 30 blackfish up to 4 lb. 8 oz. on green crab.

## JAMAICA BAY

**J Bay Boat Rental** reports that all their rental skiffs are getting nice catches of keeper flounders along with a sprinkling of smaller flatties. All the boats are fishing NW Point between JFK Airport and the Inwood Country Club on worms, mussels and mussel chum. Small blacks and big eels are being taken at the same spot.

**Cross Bay Bait & Tackle** says that blackfish are now the hot news in the area. Seven blacks up to 2¼ lbs. were taken off the North Channel Bridge on mussels Monday by George Muller. On Thursday Tony Mazzotta fishing the last of the ebb with fiddlers on the North Channel Bridge, took 3 blacks of 2½ lbs. and also a 5 lb. black. Tuesday saw Sam Margoleese bag a 2½ lb. flounder on mussel on the ebb.

## SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt Tom of the **Elsie K III** tells of a fair Sunday on the flounders with some blues mixed in. Catches were good during the week at the Outer Banks, off the jetties and off Rockaway. Catches averaged 20 to 35 fish a man up to 3 lbs. Tom says good weather results in better catches. Some bluefish are being caught accidentally and 6 fluke have been caught so far aboard the boat. Super flounder catches are coming up says Tom.

Capt Walter Weigand of the **Flamingo III** tells of sensational mackerel fishing Saturday and Sunday which built all week long. One drift was all they needed and mackerel were pulled at will by all customers. They quit fishing before 1 p.m. and there were sacks and sacks of macks lined up at the rail. Just a dynamite week and weekend. Also a big influx of 3 to 6 lb. blues in the NY Bight, Rockaway Inlet, Norton's Point and Jone's Inlet, that you don't normally see until the end of May.

Capt Tom of the **Pilot II** (blackfish specialist) tells of a super Saturday and Sunday on blackfish. Thursday and Friday were very good. Blacks are running from 1 to 5 lbs. and gobbling up green crab. Tom is working the NJ coast. Sea bass are also showing with 60 from 1 to 1½ lbs. caught on Sunday.

Capt Butch of the **Zephyr** reports excellent flounder fishing all this past week and weekend fishing the NJ coast for fish ranging from ¾ to 1¼ lbs., catches ranging from 20 to 45 a man. He's catching flounders up to 3 lbs. in deeper water at the area

dubbed Outer Banks. Here catches are averaging 15 to 30 a man on mussel bottom. Catches are excellent and consistent, says the skipper with bigger fish being caught now. Quite a few doubles and some triples with an odd black and ling mixed in. Tons of sand eels in the water.

Charlie at **Mike's Tackle** reports lots of mackerel being caught around the Three Sisters. Three lb. class blues in volume at the Tin Can hitting A 27s. Just a slaughter on the weekend. Blacks from 3 to 4 lbs. being taken off the jetties. The **Pilot II** is enjoying a leap job on the blackfish. Party boats fishing flounder are having solid catches off Manhattan Beach, buoy 4 and off Rockaway. A few blowfish are mixed in with the flounders.


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## GREENPORT

Charterboat **Prowler II** on Saturday had Rich DelGreco of the Bronx out and they zonked 134 flounders and 1 blackfish. The skipper says that the flounder fishing remains excellent.

**A.P. White Bait Shop** reports that the **Brand X and Peconic Star** continue to bang away at the flounders in fine style. The larger fish are still at Gardiner's Island at Bostick on the west side, fish from 2 to 4 lbs. Petty's Bight, Truman Beach and Orient Point are holding larger quantities of flounders but not as big as Gardiner's. Charter boat **Nancy Ann** scored with a catch of big LI sound fish for the party on the weekend. Lots of weaks in the

**Nick Savine with an 8½ lb. weak taken in South Race. This was the first weak of the season checked in at Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.**

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Charter boat **Blue Albatross** called to report that Saturday's charter had roughly 600 flounders. Lou Tinto was hi hook with 70 fish. The pool winner was Mike Domino. Sunday's charter for the Weather Bee Fishing Club saw lots of action with the pool fish going to Carol Esposito.

Capt George Porter of the **Brand X** happily reports that the flounder pounding remains very good at Petty's Bight. "Flounders are as thick as fleas" at Petty's said the skipper. Between Greenport and Mattituck some 4 lb. flatties are being taken, though not in quantity. The boat will continue flounder fishing since the catches remain so consistently good. Worm, clam and mussel are the hook bait. The boat is weakfishing on Friday and Saturday nights. See ad for details.

## SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** tells us that the weaks are in! Al and George Ingraham boated 10 weakfish up to 12 lbs. 13 ozs. at buoy 17 using red jelly worms with Tri-Fin heads, sand worms and rubber sand eels. Flounders are being caught on the west side of Jessups, at the Oyster Factory, East Marion, Orient, Petty's Bight and east of the Orient Station. This is on worm, clam and mussel. Chumming helps ofcourse. Good blackfishing at the Lighthouse on clam, mussel and worm bait. These are 4 to 5 lb. class fish. A 3½ lb. sea bass took a hook at Jessups.

## NEW SUFFOLK

**Capt Marty's Fishing Station** reports that the weaks are definitely in and in force! Guy and Billy DeBlasio and Stanely Berman scored with 33 weaks up to 11 lbs. fishing South Race on Friday with 9" Red jelly worms. Another angler had 24 big weakfish Saturday. Sunday, Anthony Savino and Steve and Mike Pilewski totaled 15 big weakfish up to 14 lbs. 15 oz. on red jelly worms and squid at South Race. All these catches were on both tides and fish were picked all through the day. Scotty and Art Weiss and Art Hoerning smiled with 22 weakfish up to 14 lbs. taken on red jelly worms and squid at South Race. Early in the week Nat Castagna and two pals had a good flounder catch just east of the sand slide on sand worms.

## PECONICS

**Speck's Bait & Tackle** reports that most weaks being caught are in the 3 to 6 lb. class. Four anglers out of Hampton Bays scored with 14 weaks on grape and red jelly worms. This was in South Race Friday. On Sunday at buoy 29, Gary Nilsen of St. James bagged a 13 lb. 6 oz. weakfish, the largest so far this year for the area. He had 10 others in the 4 to 6 lb. class, all on the flood. George Speck and Bruce Scarlett and Steve Stehlik fishing in the late afternoon Sunday at 4 weaks from 3 to 5 lbs. in South Race with jelly worms and squid. Good flounder fishing at Promised Land and Tobacco Lot. Three members of Huntington Anglers had 50 good fish. Bob and Ron Miller and John Cester of Shirley had 35 flatties from 1½ to 2½ lbs. and a few blacks on Sunday using worms and mussels. Weakfish up to 5¼ lbs. are being taken by casters using squid off the Cow Neck Beach.

## NOYAC

Barbara at **Noyac Marina** called to say that the flounder fishing was great this weekend as far as Tommy and Jim Gazda of Forest Hills were concerned. They had 31 flounders up to 2½ lbs. taken on blood worms and mussels. Weaks have been caught from Friday on up to 9¾ lbs. Two humpback porgies were also caught Saturday as were 10 mackerel.

## SAG HARBOR

Charter boat **Sundance** reports the codfishing still good and the flounder fishing remains excellent. Best cod catches are being made off Block Island. Loads of mackerel in the Sound. The bass and bluefish appear to be on their way into the area along with the weakfish and the skipper says now is the time to book your trips.

Capt Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** reports that the flounder fishing remains excellent at Orient and Petty's Bight. The fish are a little smaller now. However, there are still big fish moving in from the Mattituck area. Catches are averaging 25 to 30

**Joe Sipos, Harry Rybecky and Pete Ames with 61 flounder including several over 2 lbs. taken in Sag Harbor. Subscriber photo.**

good flounders a man. Wednesday at Eastern Plains Point and Tobacco Lot passengers accounted for 65 flounder in the 3 lb. class. Friday and Saturday nights start up the night weakfishing had poor results, and the skipper says that it may be a little early. Weakfishing should pick up in the Peconics any day now and the fish taken in traps are big.

Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** reports flounder still plentiful at Cedar Point with fish averaging 1 lb. Weakfish moved in this week in the 7 to 10 lb. range on jelly worms, Tri-Fins and Salty Dogs tipped with squid. Weaks were caught at buoys 15, 16 and 17 and Chris expects to see weakfish action at Mashamick Point soon.

## THREE MILE HARBOR

**Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station** reports that all their boats converged on Cedar Point Saturday and catches were made to the tune of 20 to 30 good keepers a man, fish averaging 1½ lbs. on worm, clam and mussel chum.

## PROMISED LAND

Lynne and Skip Keener of **East End Litho** anchored up in Tobaccolot Bay for a couple of hours Saturday afternoon. Using heavy mussel chum and yellow dyed mussels and clams for bait, the pair put away 15 big snowshoes in the 2½ to 4 lb. class.

**Cathy O'Conner, Miss Lindenhurst, draws lucky winners' tickets at the grand opening drawing at Shane's Marine, Babylon.**

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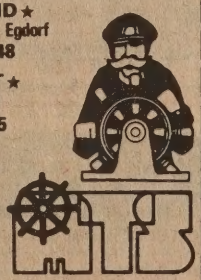

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# NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

## ★ BEST BET ★ MACKEREL

## MT. SINAI HBR.

Dick of **Dick's Sporting Goods** reported a lot of blackfish and big flounder being taken all along local beaches from Miller Place east to Rocky Point. The best bait has been sand worms, but clams have taken fish also. Mackerel fishing was good during the week out in the Sound, but had slowed by Saturday. On Sunday due to the weather and Mother's Day, very few guys ventured out.

## PORT JEFFERSON

John of **Caraftis Fishing Station** said that mackerel were thick on Friday and picky on Saturday in the buoy 11 area. Lots of flounder just south of buoy 11 where they are mixed with blackfish, porgies and sea bass. John labelled the blackfishing good now that the big fish are spawning in sandy bottom areas. Sand worms, clams and fiddlers have all been productive. Fishing near the harbor breakwater on Saturday, Nick Macchio, John Pirro and Charles Saule totalled 21 blacks on clams and fiddlers, including a tautog of 10 lbs. taken by Nick.

## KINGS PARK

**OK Bait and Tackle** reported the big news for the week was the catch of a 10 lb. 3 oz. brown trout taken by Charlie Rankin while jigging mackerel off the mouth of the Nissequogue River. Flounder and mackerel have been making up most catches in the area. On Saturday, the Lamteotavios family fished off of Callahan's and had a nice mixed bag of mackerel and flounder as well as a porgie of 2¼ lbs. Same day, Anthony, Ralph and Joe Puleo took 17 mackerel and 65 flounder to 2¼ lbs. on worms at the mouth of the river. Bob, Robert and Frank Marchesano, Anthony Giallanza and Kevin Moynihan fished Callahan's to the tune of 70 flounder up to 2¼ lbs. They used worms and mussel chum.

## NORTHPORT

Thom at **Bowmann's Sport Center** reported mackerel are scattered over a large portion of the Sound about 3 miles out. Saturday was one of the better days for the macks so far this season. Flounder up to 2 lbs. and averaging 1 to 1¼ lbs. being taken at Eatons Neck, Callahan's and Makamah on sand worms and mussel chum. All local harbors are loaded with small flounder according to Thom. Blackfish starting with fish taken at Eatons Neck and Makamah on worms and clams and quite a few school bass from 2-4 lbs. being taken on small white bucktails by boatmen casting into the Lilco outflow.

**This huge 3 lb. 4 oz. flounder was taken off "the Mansion" by Keith Bruno. The outsized flattie took a sandworm bait. Photo courtesy of OK Bait and Tackle.**

## HUNTINGTON

**Ever Ready** skipper Capt Packy Collins reports that Saturday saw constant action all day with atleast 2 to 4 dozen mackerel a man. Pool winner was Les Clark of Silver Creek, NY with a 3 lb. mackerel. Sunday's fishing was slow yet everyone had all they wanted by 11 a.m. A good hit was made near Eaton's Neck. As a reminder, Packy will be sailing on Memorial Day.

George Valentine at **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** reported lots of mackerel taken Saturday and Sunday from buoy 11B to the Lilco platform. Some flounder still being taken along the beaches on worms and mussels. Fish range from 1 to 2 lbs. Blackfishing has improved to the point where fishing is now worthwhile at Eatons Neck and Callahan's.

## GLEN COVE

The **Lady Lil II** which is attacking the macks daily at 8 a.m., tells us that the mackerel fishing has been super most days of the week with Saturday's catch to the tune of over 100 macks a man, most fish being 2 pounders. Sunday was picky but some passengers had 40 to 50 fish. These macks were on top and had to be cast to. Therefore, the skipper advises that you bring a conventional outfit and also a spinning outfit so that you will be prepared for any eventuallity.

Dave at **Glen Cove Sport Shop** reported that Prybil Pier has been the scene of excellent blackfishin and good flounder fishing this past week. Armando Perez is the current leader

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Fourteen-year-old Chris Mailman of Glen Cove with a nice weakfish. Subscriber photo.


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in the blackfish category of the shop contest with an 11¾ lb. tautog taken at Prybil. Dave noted that macks remain scattered in the Sound with the heaviest concentrations still located well to the east.


**NORTH SHORE WEST END**
★ BEST BET ★
MACKEREL


## CITY ISLAND

Capt Joe of the **Ebb Tide III** reports solid mackerel catches between Stanford and Port Jeff all week long and on the weekend. On Sunday fares had from ¼ to full sacks. Friday they had from 1 to 2 sacks. Fish are running from ¾ to 2½ lbs. Joe says that especially on the weekends, be sure to come to the boat early since the boat will leave the dock as soon as it is loaded to capacity. Therefore the boat may leave considerably early than it's advertised sailing time.

Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** spoke of good blackfishing for shore casters along Orchard Beach and near the City Island Bridge. Most casters taking their fish on clams, according to Greg. While boatmen have been using both clams and green crabs, best bet for boat fishermen is Sands Point or the old CBS tower. On Sunday, Tony DePiro checked in a 10¾ lb. blackfish which he took at Sands Point. Some flounder still being taken in the area on worms, but blackfish are now getting more attention than the flatties. Worm trollers taking a few school bass around Harts Island.

# SURF REPORT
## with Fred Golofaro

Enough action was evident around the Island this week to warrant getting the Surf Report Column off the ground.

At West End, Jones Beach, a couple of reliable sources reported lots of action with blues in the 2-4 lb. class on tins, plugs, and tube lures such as the Tri-Fin Whiptail and Eelworm. Fishing was hot Friday evening up until dark and again on Saturday.

A few weaks were also mixed with the small choppers. Dave Curti of Valley Stream fished the Jones Inlet area on Saturday night and managed four school bass from 3 to 4 lbs.

In the Fire Island area, most surfmen have been working the banks of the State Channel with strawberry jelly worms and leadhead combos and picking away at weaks in the 6-10 lb. range.

On the North Shore, Stan of Rocky Pt. Fishing Stop, reported some school bass along local beaches on 3/4 oz. Tri-Fin eel worms. The key to finding the bass, according to Stan, is to find the sand eels.

In the Huntington area, school bass, including many shorts, are being taken by casters working the Cold Spring Harbor Causeway with small Rebels. Ronnie Ferraro of Ronnie's Tackle relayed word of this fishing and added that some very good scores were made at the Northport outflow by anglers during the week. Sinking Rebels, and small bucktails have been working best here. As for the action along the causeway, Ron weighed fish of 8 and 9 lbs. for Mark Rinaldo and John Munno.

Lots of school bass reported from the Sound side of Center I. around to Matinecock Pt. by Dave at Glen Cove Sport Shop. While many of the bass range from shorts to 18", there have been some 6-9 lb. fish mixed in. Six inch brown colored jelly worms on a swimming head have been the ticket along with small Rebels.

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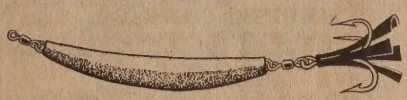

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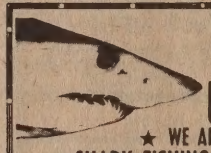

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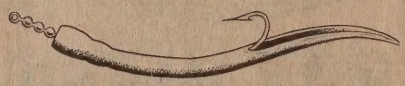

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## NATIONAL SCENE:

(Continued from page 14.)

when we were told that the "Sea Lion" was heading offshore where the marlin, giant tuna, and swordfish were waiting—or words to that effect. In actuality, any giant tuna caught at Walker's is a great rarity, and I doubt if they've ever taken a swordfish there! Fortunately, everything improved from that point on, and I was particularly impressed by the fact that they admitted to putting in two weeks of fishing before finally hooking into a blue marlin that stayed hooked. With fine photography, the intelligent use of the mate to describe the fishing techniques, and good editing, this show set a standard which I hope the rest will follow. With "American Sportsman" more concerned these days with such "fascinating" subjects as rafting with the Kennedys, it's good to see that there may be a real prime time outdoors show again.

### Children's Trout Derby

The Lake Musconetcong Anglers Club will hold its annual Children's Trout Derby on Sunday, May 17 at Dee Bee's Pond on Rt. 46 between Netcong and Roxbury. Registration starts at 8AM, while fishing runs from 9AM to 1PM. A total of 200, ten inch trout and ten, sixteen inch trout will be stocked in the pond several hours before starting time. Prizes will go to the first boy and girl to catch a trout, plus all those catching the sixteen inch fish. Over 100 other prizes will be awarded on a lottery basis. The club will also provide free hot dogs and soda to all registered. Children up to and including the age of 13 are eligible.

instant customer appeal, features vivid four-color front and side panels portraying the many uses and selling points of each boat model.

The new boat line includes 10 different models in four series: Condor, Gold Cup, Seaway and Sea Gaze. Even without an in-store display, potential customers can get a good look at the various models offered, and their features, from the packaging's use of eye-catching photography and printing.

For further information and a free copy of Seaway's latest full-color catalog, write or call SEAWAY, a Subsidiary of U.S. Industries, Inc., 7200 North Oak Park Avenue, Niles, Illinois 60648. Phone toll free 800/323-4232.

### GAFF & LANTERN SHIELD NEW FROM WILSON LURE CO.

Wilson Lures, well known for their popular Ballistic Lure, recently announced two new products designed to aid fishermen. The Gotcha Gaff, a twenty inch stainless model with wrist cord and molded finger grip, will allow one to keep his gaff handy at all times. Priced at $12.95 plus $2 postage.

The new Lantern Shield, designed for use with Coleman two mantle lanterns stops annoying glare and reflects light in any direction desired by the user. Priced at $4.95 plus $1 handling.

Both products now available from Wilson Lure Co. Camping & Fishing Products, P.O. Box 3771, Philadephia, Pa. 19125.

### NEW "QUESTIONS & ANSWERS" BOOKLET FROM ZEBCO

A new booklet dealing with the "Questions Most Asked About Tackle...And the Answers" is available free from Zebco.

The multi-page booklet addresses such frequently asked questions as "how can I untwist line, what's the best knot for tying on lures, which is better—ball bearings or bushing, and how to install line on spinning and spin-cast reels?"

The new publication deals with more than two dozen of the questions most frequently asked of the Zebco Customer Service Department, Research and Development and Zebco representatives.

To get the free booklet, write Zebco Customer Service, P.O. Box 270, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101.

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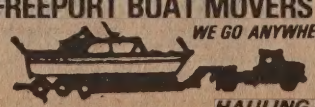

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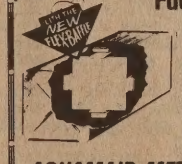

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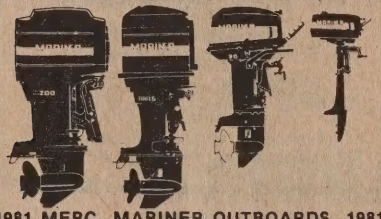

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14' CHRIS CRAFT Wood. Fiberglass bottom 1966 90 h.p. Johnson. Good condition. Two gas tanks, CB, anchor, line, extinguisher. Pump, life jackets. $275. 516-623-5443. Evenings.

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SEA-OX 20' & 23' Walkaround Cuddy. Avail. inboard or outboard; 17'-23' models avail. Center console or comm'l. Largest Sea-Ox & Phoenix dealer on L.I. Phoenix avail. in gas or diesel inboard, twin or single, or outboard. STEIN'S BOAT & MOTOR SALES, 23 River Rd., Sayville, N.Y. 516-567-3313.

1978 WELLCRAFT V-20 175 h.p. Johnson Power trim/tilt; SST. Very fast 50 mph + and very economical. Custom rigged for offshore. Dual batteries; tach., VHF radio, compass, spare prop. Lowrance depth finder with alarm. Lowrance white line chart recorder; insulated fish box with cushion. Fuel/water separator. Two bilge pumps. Extra cleats; winter canvas. $8450. 516-669-8982 Eves.

PACER 26' Convertible Sportfisherman; F/B 190 Chrysler F/W cooled, FG decks; extras. $3800. 516-587-1249.

30' EGG HARBOR '54, repowered '71, twin FWC Chrysler crowns. Sleeps 4; cushions, VHF, depth sounder, compass. Recent survey; ready for season. $3000. 516-437-9885.

SHAMROCK 25' 9''. Taking orders for Pilot House or Open Fisherman. Gas or diesel. Shamrock 20', all models in stock. New 1981s now in. ROVINA, 516-728-0922; 25' 9'' Cuddy due in June.

1971 25' LUHRS Custom fiberglass canyon runner. Tower, dual controls, outriggers, fighting chair, fish box, CB, VHF, recorder, 225 Chrysler. Sleeps two. Rollaway galley; pressure freshwater. Much more. $14,500. 516-734-5137 After 6PM.

1964 Evinrude 90 h.p. Elec. shift, with controls. Not running, not seized, complete. $100 Eves. 516-584-5087.

16' Clam Garvey - Fiberglass bottom. Good condition. $350. 516-249-6815.

EVINRUDE, 1977, 140 h.p.; bought new 1978. Low hours. Like new; freshwater use. $2100 Firm. 516-689-9344.

6' Fiberglas Dinghy w/oars, molded seats; excl. cond. $100; 9' inflatable boat/folding wood floor & motor mount. Oars, dual air chambers, $50; 30' Rockaway outriggers/all hardware. Double spreaders, alum. & fiberglas. Suitable for 35' or large boat. Sacrifice, $300. Morrow depth Rec/Flasher combo. 240' depth & 4 ranges. Built-in light, locker & speed control. Needs transducer. Cost-$500. Sacrifice-$150. 516-454-0033 Days.

Evinrude 135 h.p. 1973; 2 props. Broken rings in one cylinder, but runs. Make offer. 516-487-5882. Evenings.

1976 TOPAZ Cuddy 28'. Twin Mercruiser inboards, FWC. Low hours; new condition. Days: 212-454-8200; Eves: 212-969-2424.

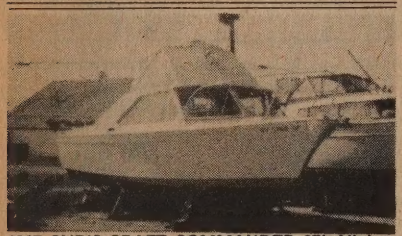
Pair 1977 255 h.p. Mercruisers, FWC, short blocks with heads, $500 pair. Penn 16/0 with Dacron $100. Fenwick 80 lb., 50 lb. Make offer. All excellent. 929-4881 or 929-8285.

Hydra-Sports—the Kevlar difference; 18' through 24' consoles and cuddies in stock for demonstrations. Auth. Evinrude sales & service. Custom rigging. Financing. DAVE BOFILL MARINE, 1810 North Sea Rd., Southampton, NY. 516-283-6736.

FOR SALE: '76 23' ROBOLO 236 cuddy w/tower, controls, twin 115 h.p. Many extras; excl. cond. E/Z Load trailer included. For information, call 9-5: 212-686-6277.

21' Renkin '80 140 h.p. Volvo FWC, Cuddy cabin. Galley, compass, CB. Safety package; more. 516-587-2980.

20' CHRIS CRAFT® Frontrunner, I/O, 200 hrs. Immaculage; loaded. Trailered, garaged. $7400. 516-825-7104.

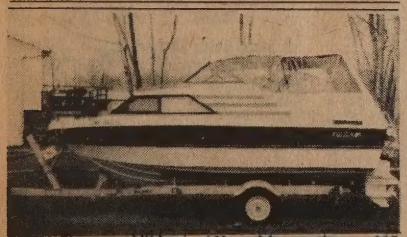


1967 CHRIS CRAFT COMMANDER 27' Allglass FB, fighting chairs; 2 depth recorders. Counter stove, bunks, CB, auto. anchor winch. New 350 Chris Craft FWC. $10,800. 212-539-4743.

1963 Mackenzie Cuttyhunk 26', 1975 220 FWC Palmer, Monel-tanks. Low burn, stern controls, Meca 415 recorder; VHF. Dual batteries. Many extras. After 4PM. 516-223-8965.

Must Sell: 17' Glastron 1970. 120 h.p. Inboard/Outboard Mercruiser. Low hours. $1795. 516-475-3954. Bill.

20' SEA CRAFT, Center console; 165 I/O. Excellent condition. $6500. Many extras. 516-427-6583.



1978 Steury (Viking) 18' cabin cruiser, 115 Johnson power trim/tilt. Shoreloader galvanized trailer. Camper top; galley, fish finder. Many extras. $8200. Eves. 914-623-7190.

15' Fiberglass Tri-Hull; 50H Johnson. Excellent condition. 781-8179 after 6PM.

1977 Bayliner Liberty 21', Volvo I/O, cuddy cabin; sink, stove, ice box, Potti, CB, DF, 110 Dockside. Dual batteries. Extras. $6500. Evenings. 516-598-1737.

Hydra-Sport 21' Console 1978 200 h.p. Johnson. Recorder, VHF, CB, compass. Full canvas. Many extras. $10,500. 516-LY 3-4914.

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12' 1978 Aluminum Starcraft Seafarer. $325. Priced to sell quick. I'm moving. 212-828-4036.

1977 MAKO 25' Deep V - 200 h.p. Johnson. Full canvas. Outriggers, recorder, VHF; extras. Engine needs work. $12,500. 516-599-4325.

OLD TOWN 18' Guide Model Canoe. Clear Fiberglas over cedar planking. Excellent condition. Two spruce paddles included. $400. 212-445-3041. After 7PM.

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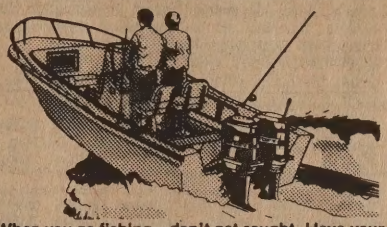

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ELECTRICAL connectors, terminals, wire, fuse blocks, etc.... and advice to the boatlorn at HEINE MARINE ELECTRONICS, 250 Montauk Hwy., Islip, 516-581-0194.

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Power Winch 912C 9000 lb. capacity. Completely overhauled at factory. Like new. $150. Lowrance LRG 1510 straight line white line recorder w/transducer. $250. 516-567-6995.

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Free Catalog. Fine saltwater fishing tackle at low, low prices. Write to: WEST FALMOUTH TACKLE, Box 690E, West Falmouth, MA 02574.

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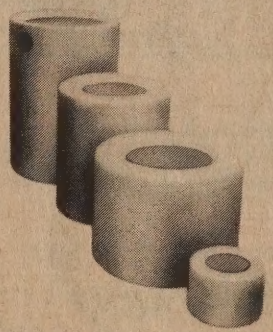

LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps and accessories. For free brochure send $.25 P/H. The Caddy Co., 57 Bayonne Ave., Dept. L, Central Islip, NY 11722. 516-234-0144.

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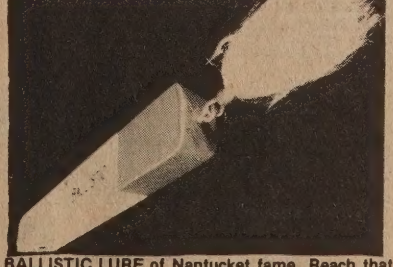

BALLISTIC LURE of Nantucket fame. Reach that school of fish while others cast short. We guarantee it. $3.95 plus $1 mailing. Wilson Lure Camping & Fishing Products, Dept. L, P.O. Box 3771, Philadelphia, PA 19125.

Continued On Next Page

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KNIVES—KNIVES—KNIVES
**The finest selection of fisherman's knives available. Send $1 for "The Anglers Catalog of Knives." MI-DE-SU PRODUCTS, 67 N. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801.**

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**Snagaway Lure Saver Kits** are the answer to this problem. They are new, unique, different, and ready to go. With vise gripping action, it pulls your tackle and lures free from rocks, stumps, logs, weeds, etc. Save your money by retrieving your tackle and lures of all kinds, spinners, harness, live or artificial bait. Designed for either right or left handed fisherman, clips on to your belt and is ready for any emergency.

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**Ship as follows: ( ) Qts. at $8.95 each. ( ) Gal. at $25.95. ( ) 5 Gals. at $20 per gal.**

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**Closed Mondays**

# High Tide Tables

## How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

| DAY | SANDY HOOK | | Breakwater Harbor | | NEW YORK | | NEW LONDON | | WILLETS POINT | | BRIDGE-PORT | | NEWPORT | | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | AM | PM | AM | PM | AM | PM | AM | PM | AM | PM | AM | PM | AM | PM | |
| THUR. | 5:30 | 6:00 | 6:30 | 6:55 | 6:10 | 6:40 | 7:25 | 7:45 | 9:50 | 10:10 | 9:05 | 9:30 | 5:20 | 5:45 | 5/14 |
| FRI. | 6:20 | 6:45 | 7:15 | 7:40 | 7:00 | 7:25 | 8:05 | 8:25 | 10:35 | 10:50 | 9:55 | 10:10 | 6:10 | 6:30 | 5/15 |
| SAT. | 7:00 | 7:25 | 7:55 | 8:15 | 7:45 | 8:05 | 8:45 | 8:55 | 11:20 | 11:30 | 10:35 | 10:50 | 6:50 | 7:10 | 5/16 |
| SUN. | 7:40 | 8:00 | 8:35 | 8:50 | 8:25 | 8:40 | 9:20 | 9:30 | 11:55 | – | 11:15 | 11:25 | 7:30 | 7:50 | 5/17 |
| MON. | 8:20 | 8:35 | 9:10 | 9:25 | 9:00 | 9:15 | 9:55 | 10:05 | 12:05 | 12:30 | 11:55 | – | 8:10 | 8:30 | 5/18 |
| TUE. | 8:55 | 9:10 | 9:50 | 10:00 | 9:40 | 9:50 | 10:35 | 10:40 | 12:25 | 12:55 | 12:00 | 12:30 | 8:50 | 9:10 | 5/19 |
| WED. | 9:30 | 9:45 | 10:25 | 10:35 | 10:20 | 10:20 | 11:15 | 11:15 | 12:35 | 1:05 | 12:35 | 1:05 | 9:35 | 9:45 | 5/20 |
| THUR. | 10:05 | 10:20 | 11:00 | 11:10 | 11:00 | 10:55 | 11:55 | 11:55 | 1:00 | 1:35 | 1:15 | 1:45 | 10:15 | 10:25 | 5/21 |

## On SANDY HOOK

| | |
|---|---|
| STATEN ISLAND | +0 27 |
| ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS | –0 01 |
| Red Bank, Navesink, R.I. | +0 48 |
| Long Branch | –0 34 |
| SHARK RIVER INLET | –0 18 |
| Shark River Basin | +0 27 |
| MANASQUAN INLET | –0 12 |
| Seaside Park | –0 33 |
| Mantoloking zbridge | +5 34 |
| TOMS RIVER | +4 37 |
| Waretown | +2 33 |
| BARNEGAT LIGHT | –0 20 |
| Manahawkin Bridge | +2 33 |
| Beach Haven | +1 47 |
| LITTLE EGG INLET | –0 01 |
| Seven Islands | +0 12 |
| Graveling Point | +1 05 |
| Mullica River | +1 55 |
| Grassy Bay | +1 08 |
| ABSECON INLET | +0 14 |
| Atlantic City Pier | –0 26 |
| Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet | +0 12 |
| GREAT EGG HARBOR | +0 46 |
| CORSON INLET | +0 09 |
| TOWNESEND INLET | +0 06 |
| HEREFORD INLET | +0 02 |
| Grassy Sound Bridge | +0 45 |
| Cape May Harbor | –0 02 |
| Rehoboth Beach | –0 07 |
| INDIAN RIVER INLET | +0 14 |
| SHINNECOCK INLET | –0 50 |
| Shinnecock Bay | +1 25 |
| East Quogue | +2 45 |
| Shinnecock Canal | +1 18 |
| Indian Reservation | +3 05 |
| MORICHES INLET | –0 56 |
| Smith's Point | +3 28 |
| Harts Cove | +1 30 |
| Pontunck Point | +3 35 |
| Mastic Beach | +3 28 |
| FIRE ISLAND INLET | –0 38 |
| Democrat Point | –0 38 |
| Coast Guard Station | –0 19 |
| Fire Island Light | +0 47 |
| GREAT SOUTH BAY | |
| Sayville | +3 39 |
| Heckscher State Pk. | +3 20 |
| Bay Shore | +2 23 |
| Babylon | +2 12 |
| Amityville | +2 21 |
| JONES INLET | –0 19 |
| Zachs Bay | +1 25 |
| Seaford Harbor | +2 05 |
| Freeport Creek | +0 34 |
| E. ROCKAWAY INLET | –0 06 |
| Long Beach Bridge | +0 19 |
| ROCKAWAY INLET | –0 00 |
| Beach Ch. Bridge | +0 38 |
| JFK Airport | +0 26 |

## On BRIDGEPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| Lloyd Point | +0 08 |
| Cold Spring Harbor | +0 08 |
| Bayville Bridge | +0 13 |
| Eatons Neck Point | +0 03 |
| Northport Bay | +0 03 |
| Norwalk Islands | +0 10 |
| Smithtown Bay | –0 03 |
| Cranes Neck Point | +0 05 |
| Port Jefferson Harbor | +0 03 |
| New Haven Harbor | +0 08 |
| Mount Sinai Harbor | –0 08 |
| Herod Point | –0 07 |
| Mattituck Inlet | +0 19 |
| Horton Point | –0 20 |
| Truman Beach | –0 42 |
| Falkner Island | –0 13 |
| Sachem Head | –0 10 |
| Branford Harbor | –0 07 |
| New Haven Harbor | –0 08 |
| Milford Harbor | –0 07 |
| Stratford | +0 27 |
| Shelton | +1 36 |
| Black Rock Harbor | –0 03 |
| Saugatuck River | –0 01 |
| South Norwalk | +0 10 |
| Greens Ledge | –0 01 |
| Stamford | +0 04 |
| Cos Cob Harbor | +0 06 |
| Greenwich | +0 02 |

## On NEW LONDON

| | |
|---|---|
| Orient Point | +0 27 |
| Little Gull Is. (Race) | +0 12 |
| Greenport | +1 04 |
| Southold | +1 43 |
| New Suffolk | +2 26 |
| South Jamesport | +2 32 |
| Shinnecock Canal | +2 33 |
| Noyack Bay | +2 05 |
| Sag Harbor | +0 59 |
| Gardiners Bay | +0 21 |
| Promised Land | –0 14 |
| Montauk Inlet | –0 25 |
| Montauk Point | –1 13 |
| Niantic | +1 20 |
| Stonington | –0 33 |
| Noank, Mystic River | –0 23 |
| THAMES RIVER | |
| Smith Cove | –0 01 |
| Norwich | +0 09 |
| CONNECTICUT RIVER | |
| Saybrook jetty | +1 10 |
| Lyme | +1 24 |
| Essex | +1 38 |
| East Haddam | +2 41 |
| Higganum Creek | +2 54 |

## On WILLETS PT.

| | |
|---|---|
| Little Neck Bay | –0 10 |
| Execution Light | –0 06 |
| Manhasset Bay | –0 01 |
| Hempstead Harbor | –0 11 |
| City Island | –0 03 |
| Rye Beach | –0 28 |
| Port Chester | –0 09 |
| Mamaroneck | –0 08 |
| New Rocheele | –0 24 |
| Davids Island | –0 02 |

## On B'WATER HB.

| | |
|---|---|
| CAPE MAY POINT | –0 10 |
| Miami Beach | +1 17 |
| East Point | +0 53 |
| Egg Island Point | +0 33 |
| Cape Henlopen | –0 05 |
| ROOSEVELT INLET | +0 09 |
| Mispillion River Ent. | +0 33 |
| St. Jones River Ent. | +0 57 |

## On NEW YORK

| | |
|---|---|
| Jersey City | +0 07 |
| Geo. Washington Br. | +0 46 |
| Spuyten Duyvil | +0 58 |
| Ossining | +1 53 |
| Peekskill | +2 24 |
| West Point | +3 16 |
| Newburg | +3 42 |

## On NEWPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| Sakonnet | –0 10 |
| Tiverton | +0 21 |
| Beavertail Point | –0 02 |
| Prudence Is., Sandy Pt. | +0 10 |
| Bristol | +0 10 |
| Warren | +0 21 |
| Nayett Point | +0 12 |
| Pawtucket | +0 21 |
| East Greenwich | +0 16 |
| Wickford | +0 12 |
| Narragansett Pier | –0 08 |
| Point Judith Harbor | –0 07 |
| BLOCK ISLAND | |
| Great Salt Pond | +0 05 |
| Old Harbor | –0 14 |
| Watch Hill Point | +0 44 |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5/15 | 5:40 | 8:13 |
| 5/16 | 5:39 | 8:14 |
| 5/17 | 5:38 | 8:15 |
| 5/18 | 5:37 | 8:16 |
| 5/19 | 5:36 | 8:17 |
| 5/20 | 5:35 | 8:18 |
| 5/21 | 5:34 | 8:19 |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5/15 | 4:58PM | 4:19AM |
| 5/16 | 5:56PM | 4:46AM |
| 5/17 | 6:53PM | 5:13AM |
| 5/18 | 7:50PM | 5:43AM |
| 5/19 | 8:47PM | 6:16AM |
| 5/20 | 9:43PM | 6:52AM |
| 5/21 | 10:37PM | 7:34AM |

## Moon Phases

| NEW | 1st Qtr. | FULL | 2nd Qtr. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5/4 | 5/10 | 5/19 | 5/26 |

The Original Knight
**SOLUNAR TABLES**
*When To Fish Or Hunt*

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

| | AM | | PM | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Minor | Major | Minor | Major |
| Thurs. | 2:30 | **8:35** | 2:45 | **8:55** |
| Fri. | 3:10 | **9:15** | 3:25 | **9:35** |
| Sat. | 3:50 | **9:50** | 4:00 | **10:15** |
| Sun. | 4:30 | **10:30** | 4:40 | **10:55** |
| Mon. | 5:10 | **11:10** | 5:20 | **11:30** |
| Tues. | 5:45 | **11:55** | 6:10 | — |
| Wed. | 6:30 | **12:15** | 6:45 | **12:35** |
| Thurs. | 7:20 | **1:10** | 7:50 | **1:35** |

# Why Grady-White owners boat more fish more often.

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Look at the 221 Pacific below. With 8 feet of beam and a big 75 square foot self-bailing cockpit, you'll have plenty of room for fishing. And with built-in ice chests, fish boxes, aft bait rigging station, and optional live well, you'll find it a pleasure to stay out all day. There are horizontal and vertical rod racks, seven storage compartments and two side shelves for your gear. And below, there's two berths and room for a head.

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